
Feminist Bookstore News





July/August 1991

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Second chance

JACKIE CALHOUN



Second Chance

by Jackie Calhoun

From the author of the bestselling *Lifestyles...*

Amy Netzger has found the courage to lay claim to her real self. But separating from her husband has cost her dearly: her children do not understand — and her daughter, Marge, has rejected her outright.

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Zeta Base

by Judith Alguire

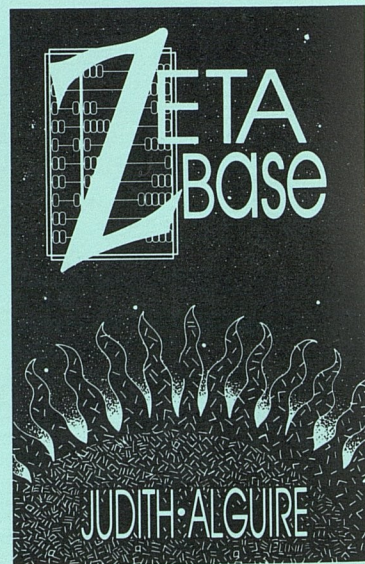
As the galaxy celebrates a half-millennium gala, Antiquity, Earth's venerable science-philosopher, announces an ominous finding about the Earth's sun. But, esteemed though she may be, her warning is received with skepticism — because her theories rely entirely on the readings of outmoded instruments.

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Morgan and Jaffey rekindle an old rivalry over Deirdre...and a fierce love triangle deepens amid the intrigue and danger.

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The Naiad Press, Inc.

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NOTES FROM THE COMPUTER TABLE

Thanks to Sudie Rakusin for the Amazons on the cover. I'm not sure if that's a candle or a stick of dynamite the woman on the left is holding, but I love their air of doing what is necessary, no matter how difficult, and then moving on. If I have an "energy image" of feminist booksellers, that's it: doing what is necessary, unafraid to carry a labyris into these times, illuminating a universe with ideas, and ready to blow up bigotry, ignorance and oppression in all of their manifestations — with, of course, the support and friendship of other women, sisters' visions, and good companions on the road.

This image certainly applies to Nancy Helm whose new bookstore's windows were bombed out during the local campaign for a lesbian and gay rights ordinance. I imagine her replacing windows, rebuilding the frames, and refusing to be intimidated into closing. And continuing to do the same work for lesbian/gay rights that she was doing all along. I take back the image above of "unafraid." Courage, as I understand it, is looking the fear straight in the face, acknowledging it, and then standing behind that counter day after day, just the same.

News of the bombing was followed by news that U.S. Customs had impounded a lesbian book, that South African Customs had halted a shipment of Naiad titles, that a Canadian Post Office had notified local papers that issues of a feminist magazine were "offensive," that a lesbian-owned lesbian and gay bookstore had been denied a business license in West Palm Beach, and by the unpleasant duty of trying to make sense of the upheaval at the Women's Press/U.K. from an ocean and a continent away. A few extra amazons around the office can make all the difference.

Several of these problems have been resolved — and what is interesting is that the power that tipped the balance in several cases was the media. Within 24 hours of *Publishers Weekly's* call to Customs, the title

was released. When local newspapers (and then national wire services) did stories about these wholesome girls who'd invested their life savings into this shiny-new bookstore, the city licensing department was embarrassed into issuing the license. Outrage is one thing, but outrage by the media leads to redressed grievances. It leaves me thinking that we will, more and more, have to resort to trying our cases in the media as Bush continues to destroy the court system in this country. Details on everything in the News section.

On a cheerier note: ABA was the highest energy convention I've ever attended. Seventy booksellers representing 36 bookstores from the U.S. and Canada made Feminist Bookstore Day the most information- and connection-intensive Day ever.

Based on sales figures given during Feminist Bookstores Day, I'm (conservatively) estimating that

FBN Deadlines

Fall Announcements
September/October Issue

August 10

November/December
October 10

annual sales for women-owned, women-oriented feminist bookstores are now at \$30 million. That figure does not include gay- or gay-and-lesbian stores that don't identify primarily as feminist bookstores. The Feminist Bookstores/Feminist Publishers Banquet was a delight and the parties and events full of good friends and camaraderie. All of which was complemented by a strong feeling of visibility as the Show Daily came out each day with photos from Lesbian/Gay/Feminist Row, of feminist publishers getting awards, African-American booksellers, the Multi-Cultural Book Exhibit, specialty bookstore roundtables and more.

I wish I could tell you that the columnists whose columns are missing from this issue (and we do miss them!) were out on vacation. Would that they'd been having fun! Penny Goldsmith had emergency surgery. She's back on her feet now and will reappear in the next issue. Mary Lowry spent the weeks before deadline with a respiratory infection and Ed Hermance did what bookstore owners do when old staff leaves and new staff is hired — create extra hours in the day to hire (and then train) the new staff, *and* fill in all the holes in the schedule. Canadian Books, Mysteries, and Gay Lit will be back in the Fall issue.

I also want to thank Kris Hoover for four years of her wonderfully knowledgeable, opinionated and useful University Press columns. She's done an amazing (and amazonly) job of turning the mountains of information into a cogent and useful resource for other feminist booksellers. Thanks, too, to Ann Christopherson of Women and Children First who has courageously agreed to continue the column. University Presses have taken up much of the slack as the mainstream publishers have been devoured by international publishing and shifted increasingly to blockbuster publishing. University Press books are more important to us now than ever before.

I want to take a moment to thank everyone who sends their evaluation/commentary form with their renewal year after year. We use your comments and suggestions to shape upcoming issues and articles.

We've recently had requests (via your evaluation forms) for a number of articles. If you're interested in writing or interested in contributing to any of the following articles, please give us a call. Oftentimes

several booksellers, none of whom has time to write a whole article, will call and offer information that we can compile into a useful article. The membership article is a prime example of these kinds of phone calls paying off.

Among the things we're looking for are: an updated Recovery Fiction list (the last one we ran was April '89), Our Problem and How We Solved It stories about anything affecting bookstores, more "great ideas and best innovations," and success stories about importing books. We're also fresh out of bookstore profiles. I know you think we fly all over the world to develop these articles, but they almost always come from the booksellers themselves. Send us a profile that you've written, or that someone in your community did about your store, and share the good news with your sister-booksellers.

What about dealing with the media? This issue is full of examples where the right connections with the media solved major problems. Using the media effectively isn't a skill generally taught to women. What do we, collectively, know about dealing with the media that would help other booksellers? What are our success stories and what seemed like a good idea at the time but didn't work as anticipated?

I'd also very much like to start a Question and Answer column. I think it would be a current and timely forum for both practical and theoretical aspects of feminist bookselling. You send in the questions, we'll publish them, and other booksellers can write in with their experiences and suggestions. Here's the first question, right off of someone's evaluation form: How do you (or how did you) set up video sales and rental. Do you need a special license? What are the best sources for buying videos to resell? to rent? How much capital did it take?

The other request we've had is for a rotating publisher's column to give publishers a voice and address issues of concern to publishers and/or booksellers. If you'd like to see a column like this, send us a post card or a note telling us what issue or topic you'd like to address.

Last, but not least, I want to apologize to Ann Frost for identifying her in the Paradigm Bookstore profile as Ann Fox. I know she knows I can't believe I did that — I've only know her for about ten years!

Yours in spreading the words!

Carol Seajay

○

FBN

Editor & Publisher

Carol Seajay

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FEMINIST BOOKSTORE NEWS is the communications vehicle for the informal network of feminist bookstores. FBN reaches 350 feminist and feminist-inclined bookstores in the U.S. and Canada as well as feminist booksellers in England, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, India and Japan. Librarians, women's studies teachers, book reviewers, publishers and feminist bibliophiles comprise the remainder of the subscribers.

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Put Healing Power in Your Bookstore



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George S. Pransky, Ph.D.

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Stephen D. Grubman-Black

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Vera Gallagher, M.A., D.Min

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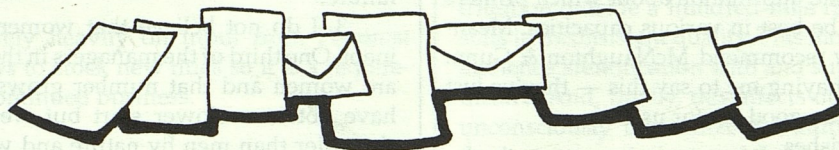


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FBN71

LETTERS



Indiana University Press
Tenth & Morton Streets
Bloomington, IN 47405

Dear FBN,

Your April issue is circulating throughout our press, and as usual, we always find much that interests us: forthcoming books from our sister presses, news about books we want to read ourselves, and vital news and information about the feminist publishing and bookselling scene.

I especially read with interest your feature on Women in the Arab World in your "From the University Presses" section that is so ably covered by Kris Hoover. FBN readers will be interested to know that Indiana has recently acquired the exclusive rights to the Women's Press title *Both Right and Left Handed: Arab Women Talk About Their Lives* by Bouthaina Shaaban. FBN referred to it as "...[a] wonderful, feminist collection of feminist perspectives from Syria, Lebanon, Palestine and Algeria.... Feminist consciousness of many sorts informs all the books listed here, but lesbians are mentioned nowhere but briefly in this last title."

We will redesign the cover and publish it in October; the price is \$12.95 paperback, trade discount. The book will be featured at the ABA.

With best regards,

Kathleen Ketterman

Assistant Director and Marketing Manager



PO Box 259
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

Dear FBN,

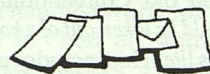
I can only agree 100% with the review of *Women's Glib* that appeared in your March/April issue — the

book is laugh-out-loud funny & doesn't contain enough humor by women of color. *Women's Glibber*, the second book in what will be a yearly collection of feminist humor, already includes twice as much written material by women of color (including Becky Birtha, Alice Walker, Maya Angelou & June Jordan) but despite all efforts I've been unable to find any cartoonists who are women of color. Or anybody who can suggest any. Does your reviewer have anybody in particular in mind that she can suggest? Could your readership help me out by suggesting any artists/-cartoonists I may have overlooked? I'd welcome all input. *Thanks!*

Roz Warren

Editor/ *Women's Glib*

215-668-4252



Alyson Publications
40 Plympton Street
Boston, MA 02118

Dear FBN,

A recent letter from Terry Woodrow of Tough Doves chronicled the difficulties they've had with Bookcrafters. Terry mentioned in passing that McNaughton & Gunn was better, and for the benefit of new publishers who are shopping around for a good printer, I'd like to amplify on that.

About a half-dozen printers, mostly in the mid-west, print books for most of the country's various gay and feminist publishers. In my experience, McNaughton and Gunn has by far the best track record on customer service, quality, and being open to potentially controversial material. They may not always have the absolute lowest price (though they're pretty good in that department, too), but as the Tough Doves

will tell you, shopping only by price does not pay off in the long run.

Someday, I'd like to poll several dozen publishers and circulate some information about which printers we've found to be best in various capacities. Meanwhile, I strongly recommend McNaughton & Gunn. No, they aren't paying me to say this — they've just consistently done a good job for us.

With best wishes,
Sasha Alyson



Naiad Press
PO Box 10543
Tallahass, FL 32302

Dear FBN,

"Anatomy of a Bankruptcy" by Mary Morell, would be a fine chapter in the someday pamphlet, "How To Open And Operate A Women's, Lesbian and Gay or Alternative Bookstore." Thank you for running it. You need, too, to make it available in reprint form. I want at least 100 a year from now on for women (and sometimes men) who call Naiad Press planning to be a bookstore.

The article, however, fails to address three points.

1. C.W. (good old Conventional Wisdom) says that *no money should be taken out of a bookstore for the first three full years of its life*. This includes any expenses that can be labeled as personal. I routinely tell women to give up the idea unless they are funded well enough to live (pay rent, food, clothing and transportation) for three years *without a cent from the store*, AND have sufficient \$\$\$\$ to pay the lease at least one year and to stock up to the \$10,000 level to open their doors. The best scenario is to have your lover and/or partner support you while you get off the ground. After all, if the business succeeds you all benefit.

2. Bankruptcy can seldom be accomplished purely by screwing up financially. It almost always has to be accompanied by bad business behavior on site — stores where the owner/operator(s) aren't in on weekends when the business is the hottest, stores where customers-to-be sometimes do not get greeted or spoken to at all while on the premises, stores where the inventory system is not kept up completely. Something else that WREMS (White Rich European-Heritage Males) (wonderful word) are taught that

women aren't taught and often refuse to learn even when faced with the reality of it, is that their business in life *is* their business and ignoring it dooms it to failure.

3. I do not believe that women are financially inept. One third of the managers in the field of finance are women and that number grows daily. We may have gotten a slower start but we are, praise be, shrewder than men by nature and without help can still do better. We simply have to *want to*.

Barbara Grier

P.S. During the first nine years of Naiad Press's life, no salary was paid to Naiad workers (from January, 1973 until January, 1982). Not until 1980 were even modest expenses taken out of the company money (telephone, postage and a tiny amount of travel). When Naiad required full time attention there were brief periods when Donna (McBride) held down a salary-paying job while Barbara worked (non-salaried) for Naiad. We know to this day that this foundation is what built our strength.



Books Etc
2410 West Avenue N
San Angelo, TX 76901

Dear FBN,

We have been struggling with the decision to close or continue and that caused us to wait until the last minute to renew any pending subscriptions.

After an unprofitable first twelve months, we were hesitant to quit without being able to compare performance on a year to year basis. Fortunately we have a marvelous landlord and he extended our lease through July to give us that opportunity. But, although sales are up compared to similar periods last year, we still haven't had a month where gross profits covered the overhead (and our labor is still donated).

But, as it approaches the new deadline to make a decision, we are still reluctant to throw in the towel. We have Lesbians and Gay men who drive from more than 100 miles to patronize our store, the only alternative to mail order available to them. The local Gay community is very self-oppressed which makes it hard to reach but it seems like we are finally making some progress there also.

And, we have several ministers and counselors who regularly call on us to supply their professional needs. So, we keep hoping that sales will reach the break-even point before we reach our breaking point.

And we rely heavily on input from Feminist Bookstore News to stock new titles so it is a requirement for our continued business.

Cordially,
Jay Moseley
(and Texas FitzGerald)



NTM Productions
PO Box 718
Ashland, OR 97520
(503) 535-4363

Dear FBN,

I am a lesbian feminist playwright and I have some very serious things to say to the women's presses about the state of lesbian feminist theatre.

First off, the women's presses will not publish our work in this country. I just returned from the Second International Women Playwrights Conference last month in Toronto. There were stacks of lesbian and feminist plays published by Canadian and British presses. There was one anthology of lesbian plays from an American press: New Victoria's collection of Sarah Dreher's work.

The women's presses in this country will not publish plays. I know, because I have submitted my work to over twenty women's presses, and every time I get them returned, unread, with the statement that they do not publish drama. And my work is not amateur. I have won two writer's fellowships, the highest literary award in Oregon — for a lesbian play!, and the individual artist grant given every two years to only one performing artist in the state. I also tour the US and Canada with a one-woman show. My work has been produced all over the country and has been translated for foreign production. Most of my plays have won awards or competitions. I name these credentials to illustrate that the problem is not quality, but prejudice. The word "drama" is the problem. Drama is not considered literature (a distinction unfortunately adopted by the NEA for publishing grants), and drama is also thought of as something that won't sell.

The effect of this is censorship. It creates a vicious circle, because lack of script accessibility means lack of theatres. Script searches go largely by word of mouth, and most women's plays seldom achieve distribution outside a hundred-mile radius. Scarcity results in inconsistent quality. This inconsistency affects audience identification with and support of women's theatre. And, finally, this affects our self-esteem. We unconsciously internalize the attitude that lesbians don't write good plays and that women's theatres are boring and amateurish.

I want to say a word to the women's presses about this publishing stigma. I think it derives from mainstream attitudes about theatre, and I ask the presses to challenge their commercial prejudice with a radical critique: In the mainstream, live theatre has become an elitist and arguably decadent art form. The popular forms of drama are now television, videos, and films. Live theatre is exorbitantly labor intensive, and for that reason the ticket prices (\$70+ in New York) are out of reach for the average person. Plays are largely from the Anglo-European (all-male) traditional canon — either that, or they are lavish, orchestrated spectacles. Mainstream drama is published almost exclusively by the play publishing services who also provide some of the services of an agent to the playwright. These publishers *will not* publish lesbian feminist work. Mainstream plays are also published in "best of" anthologies and other collections. These works must obviously have a track record of long runs, high box office, or Pulitzer Prizes. Again, lesbian feminist work falls victim to censorship.



Which women's plays are allowed to cross the gender line in mainstream theatre? Plays like *Night, Mother*, where the daughter kills herself after a two-hour fight with her mother. Plays like *The Heidi Chronicles*, where a career woman bemoans the tragedy of her childless life. Plays like *A, My Name Is Alice*, which portrays women athletes as premenstrual, feminists as whiners, and secretaries as longing to be raped. Even though this is advertised as a feminist musical, nowhere is male domination portrayed as anything except an excuse for women's self-pity.

Lesbian drama is radically different from mainstream drama. I want the women's presses to hear this. Our culture is not on television or in the movies — and I don't care who kisses who on "LA Law!" Lesbian drama currently occupies the place that mainstream live theatre used to before the age of broadcast. It is the only popular dramatic form in our culture. We should be witnessing a great rebirth of the little theatre movement in every lesbian community that's large enough to hold a potluck. Lesbians should be performing for other lesbians in living rooms, in basements, in rental halls all over the country. Our culture is still in the pre-broadcast era, and our drama should reflect that vitality.



But this is not happening — partly because of the censorship of our work which results from the women's presses refusing to consider our work. It is also not happening because of the phenomenon of gay-and-lesbian theatres which are springing up in the major cities. I have a lot to say about this.

I have had my work rejected time and time again by these theatres, because it is considered feminist instead of lesbian. I have been told that my work is "too lesbian" for a gay-and-lesbian theatre. I have been told by a New York theatre director, obviously a proponent of man-boy love (read "child sexual abuse"), that my work is ignorantly prejudiced against the practice of incest, which can be natural and beautiful!

I ask the reader to consider the implications of a theatre movement that tries to remove feminist content from lesbian culture. What happens to us when gay men are allowed to define lesbian issues? One gay-and-lesbian theatre told me that they had a mandate not to do plays which are "men-bashing." This theatre has men get up regularly with enormous falsies, wigs, and stiletto heels and sing in falsetto voices in grotesque and hateful caricatures of women. But a play which deals with men's very real violence towards women is taboo in this theatre!

A gay-and-lesbian theatre in Los Angeles sponsored a festival with twelve plays last year. Two of them were "lesbian." What were these so-called lesbian plays about? One was about a lesbian with AIDS. No comment. The other was about a lesbian attorney

who, in defending a gay man who had murdered a woman, came to feel compassion and understanding for him. This caused a rift in her relationship with her lover, whose unnatural men-hating attitudes had obviously poisoned her mind and destroyed her capacity for liberalism. The author of this intriguing "lesbian" play used a first initial, and I strongly suspect it was a gay man.

Who is considered the definitive lesbian playwright? Holly Hughes, who will identify herself as "polymorphously perverse" or "queer," but does not like the word "lesbian." In her recent work, *World Without End*, she depicts contemptuous sex with men as an act of lesbian rebellion. One step up from the movie *Thelma and Louise*, which would have us believe the ultimate feminist act of resistance is driving over the edge of a cliff together. That'll really show the men!

Aside from Sarah Dreher, who established her publishing credentials as a novelist as well as a playwright, lesbians must rely on gay male anthologies to include one of two of us. Again, feminist writers need not apply. Too many lesbian artists, struggling for access to scripts and resources, have become theatre wives to gay men, and in exchange for the use of the house, we must follow their agenda. I recently submitted a set of guidelines for the Purple Circuit, the network for gay-and-lesbian theatres, requesting that theatres that call themselves gay-and-lesbian share money, production scheduling, and executive power with lesbians. The guidelines were met with overwhelming resistance.



I ask the women's presses to begin publishing lesbian feminist drama. With increased visibility for playwrights, the demand for our work will increase. Lesbian feminist publishing began as an act of faith. Take a chance on us!

Sincerely,
Carolyn Gage

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News News News

FEMINIST/LESBIAN/GAY BOOKSTORE BOMBED

A small, home-made bomb was taped to the window of The Closet bookstore, a recently opened feminist-, lesbian-, and gay-bookstore in Lancaster, Pennsylvania early in the morning of June 24. No one was in the store at the time and, despite the fact that people were sleeping in the apartment immediately above the store, no one was injured in the blast.

The explosion shattered the two large windows at the front of the store, destroyed a section of the roof above the entry-way alcove, and damage the front door. Books in the window were damaged, but the main part of the store and the stock were left intact. The cost of repairs is estimated at \$600.

The bomb was made of rolled cardboard filled with a gunpowder-like explosive, sealed with duct tape. A cigarette was used as a fuse, allowing the people who set the bomb five minutes to walk away without drawing attention to themselves.

The Lancaster police have generally been uncooperative, taking a "boys will be boys" stance.

Not surprisingly, the violence occurred in a particular context. Despite the fact that Lancaster is generally thought of as a conservative community, the city council, after much lobbying, had passed a ordinance forbidding discrimination in housing and employment based on sexual orientation two weeks before the bombing. The County government, however, has taken a strong position against the ordinance, and shortly before the bombing, issued an ultimatum to the city: either rescind the ordinance by August 1 or the county will withdraw from the jointly

funded Lancaster (city and county) Human Rights Commission — the governmental body responsible for enforcing the the ordinance. And, as we all know, when governmental bodies appear to be condoning discrimination against lesbians and gay men (or against any other minority), anti-gay violence (or anti-minority violence) escalates.

When governmental bodies appear to be condoning discrimination against lesbians and gay men, anti-gay violenc escalates.

The Closet's owner, Nancy Helm, is an active supporter of the gay-rights ordinance. Being self-employed and *not* worried about losing her job if seen on TV or quoted in the newspapers as a gay-rights activist, she is one of the higher-profile activists working for the ordinance and was quite visible in the local media (which frequently cited her employment as the owner of The Closet) during the weeks preceding the bombing.

The police have thus far refused to report the bombing as a hate crime despite the fact that a similar bomb was detonated on the front porch of a "known homosexual" two months earlier and, shortly after the attack on The Closet, another, similar bomb was used to blow-up a telephone booth in a gay cruising area. Witnesses to the telephone booth bombing were able to give the police the name of one of the men and descriptions of both men involved, but no arrest has been made as we go to press. The descriptions of the men also match descriptions given for two men seen fleeing from the scene of a break-in two blocks from The Closet about half an hour after the explosion.

The Lancaster police have generally been uncooperative, taking a "boys will be boys" stance. They maintain that the explosion and the damage were caused by a fire-cracker — despite the fact that three

men standing 15 feet away were knocked off their feet by the blast, that a police officer sitting in a police car three blocks away felt the blast, and an outside (non-police) demolitions expert's evaluation that the explosion was (based on damage) equivalent to a half stick of dynamite.

Looking for some benefit in the this terrorist act, Nancy points out that the bombing has really worked against the ideas of the men who set it — it really changed some opinions. Many people who hadn't previously seen the need for a gay rights bill were shocked and appalled by the bombing and came to understand in a big way why anti-discrimination laws are needed and have become supporters of the bill. *All* of the city council members have called the store to express their support and the entire community — gay and straight — has stopped in to offer help. Nancy, of course, is continuing to campaign to keep the new law intact.

*In the face of police inactivity,
a Neighborhood Watch is being
organized to protect the store.*

In the face of police inactivity, a Neighborhood Watch is being organized to protect the store.

Newswire, *Publishers Weekly*, and *American Bookseller* all reported (or will report in the next issue) the bombing of the lesbian/gay bookstore, The American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression offered support in dealing with the police department, and ABA president Joyce Meskis also sent a letter expressing ABA's concern about police handling of the incident.

The Closet opened on May 15 and, except for the bombing, is doing well.

Letters expressing concern about a bookstore being bombed in Lancaster and the importance of protecting freedom of expression may be sent to the Lancaster Chief of Police Walker Goeke or Detective E. J. Able, Lancaster Police Dept. 39 E. Chestnut St., Lancaster PA 17602 (with carbon copies to the Chief of Police and Lancaster Mayor Janice Stork, Lancaster City Hall, 129 N. Duke St., Lancaster PA 17602).

You might also send copies of letters of support to Nancy. Or write to her directly at The Closet Bookstore, 25 N. Prince, Lancaster PA 17603. ○

SOUTH AFRICAN CUSTOMS
HARASSES OTHER WORLD
BOOKS OVER NAIAD SHIPMENT

In a move that looks like pure harassment, South Africa's Customs and Excise seized a shipment of four Naiad Press titles including 15 copies of *Pleasures*, 15 copies of *Curious Wine*, 1 copy of *Montana Feathers*, and 1 copy of *Parents Matter* bound for Otherworld Books, a South African book distributor/wholesaler. Indications are that *Pleasures* will be banned and that *Curious Wine* and *Montana Feathers*(!) will be declared undesirable. (*Parents Matter* is apparently OK to import.) Imported books that are "banned" (even after-the-fact) are "forfeited," i.e., confiscated. (And destroyed? And circulated among the good men of customs?) Books determined to be "undesirable" are returned to the shipper at the importer's expense.

In addition to seizing the shipment bound for Otherworld, the Controller has ordered that *all* mail from publishers addressed to Otherworld be referred to him. Both the Post Office and the land and sea customs departments have been advised to comply with this order. Customs will then notify Otherworld that a shipment has been received (which means a wait of up to a month). Otherworld staff will then be required to call on the office in person to obtain a signed release form, and only then will the mail be released. The effect, if not the goal, of this practice will be to delay all communication with Otherworld and to slow all shipments of books to the company — be they copies of *Fundamental Statistics* or the latest in lesbian politics.

Otherworld has been importing Naiad Press titles along with lesbian titles from Haworth, Onlywomen, Crossing, and various feminist presses for some time, but, according to Otherworld, "[Customs] seem a little wary of Naiad."

Otherworld will be filing complaints regarding this obviously discriminatory and homophobic harassment. In the meantime, Otherworld has requested that Naiad ship one copy of new titles in an initial shipment so they can test-run the books through customs and assess the likelihood of the books reaching Otherworld, to avoid the disastrous financial con-

sequences of losing a whole shipment to Customs seizures and/or the administrative hassle and expense of returning shipments determined to be "undesirable."

Otherworld Books can be reached at PO Box 16143, Vlaeberg, 8018 South Africa. Fax: 011-27-21-47-9362. ○

U.S. CUSTOMS HOLDS, THEN RELEASES *LOVE BITES*

Della Grace's lesbian photo book *Love Bites* is finally on its way to bookstores after being seized by U.S. Customs and held for 10 days.

Customs declared the book "obscene merchandise" on June 4 and sought permission from the importer, Alyson Publications, to destroy all 1,056 copies of the paperback, which was published in England by GMP Publishers.

Alyson refused and promised to take the matter to trial.

"*Love Bites* depicts lesbian life, in its many varieties, as seen through the eyes of a particular photographer. It is clear to me that the book was seized not for reasons of obscenity, but because you or your representative wish to perpetuate the historic invisibility of lesbian and gay lives," wrote publisher Sasha Alyson in a letter to customs officials. "Your seizure of this book is a waste of taxpayers' money; it constitutes an unwarranted interference with our business; and we will fight in court to whatever extent necessary."

Alyson Publications also informed the media of this incident and, on June 14, within 24 hours of getting a call from *Publishers Weekly*, the U.S. Attorney's office announced it would not pursue the case.

Alyson was surprised by the sudden decision because he had been attempting to contact the U.S. attorney handling the case but she had not returned his calls.

"We finally got the books," Alyson said, "but I'm disturbed that nothing happened until the press started phoning. Does the First Amendment protect only people with good media contacts?"

Last fall, Alyson Publications successfully challenged an Illinois prison that tried to keep a prisoner from receiving explicit but non-pornographic gay literature. ○

CITY REFUSES, THEN GRANTS LICENSE TO LESBIAN/GAY BOOKSTORE

West Palm Beach's new lesbian and gay bookstore opened amid a flurry of media attention after city officials abruptly reversed a decision not to grant a license to the store.

Shortly before the Back Door Bookstore was scheduled to open, the city told co-owners Peggy Bleiweis, Cathy Mistretta and Alexis Wallis that their merchandise was "adult entertainment," defined as materials that depict certain parts of the body and sexual activities. Because the store was not in an area zoned for that, the city refused to grant them a license to open.

"I couldn't believe someone could be so archaic as to say, 'You can't have a bookstore because it contains gay and lesbian materials,'" Mistretta said in a Cox News Service story.

The women asked local planning director Rick Greene to visit the store and review the books for himself.

"When they filed an occupational license, they filed it for a gay and lesbian bookstore," Greene was quoted as saying in the news service story. "It was my impression that this fell under the (adult entertainment) category, primarily because of the theme."

The city official did visit the store — immediately after the story of the licensing refusal was carried by local newspapers and television stations. He stayed 20 minutes and within half an hour of his visit, the store had its license.

The Back Door Bookstore is now open for business at 6507 South Dixie Highway, West Palm Beach, FL 33405. ○

CANADIAN POST OFFICE "WARNS" PUBLIC ABOUT WOMEN'S NEWSPAPER

Perspective, a Calgary-based women's newspaper, was thrust into the limelight recently when Canada Post officials took the unprecedented step of telling Calgary's two daily newspapers that 2,000 un-

solicited copies of the magazine were to be mailed out.

Perspective is a thoughtful and sex-positive newspaper that publishes articles, poems and information about sex and issues from passion to recovering from breast cancer, according to *Kinesis*. The quarterly is "tame by feminist standards (there is very little lesbian content and nothing on sexual minorities) — tame even by *Cosmo* standards."

A male postal worker, however, became upset after reading an article by a sex trade worker who speaks plainly about men who go to prostitutes. Although the postal service ruled that *Perspective* was not obscene, Canada Post officials nevertheless visited two newspapers in an effort to alert the public. A postal official who claims responsibility says he believed a reasonable person could consider the issue obscene and that the post office didn't want to be blamed for offending the public when they delivered the copies.

Though Canada Post never bothered to tell *Perspective* of its plans to notify the press, *Kinesis* reported, it did take the time to talk to the magazine's funders, the Secretary of State. The Secretary then released a statement declaring that no funding went to that particular issue.

The magazine's five-year funding is up in September and it has been told that it must now apply on an issue-by-issue basis, pending theme approval. "It is unclear whether Canada Post's actions affected Secretary of State's approach to the magazine," *Kinesis* wrote. ○

LORDE, PRATT AND CHRYSTOS AWARDED FREE-EXPRESSION GRANTS

Minnie Bruce Pratt, Audre Lorde, Chrystos and 22 other international writers who have been victims of political persecution have been awarded a total of \$195,000 from the estates of Lillian Hellman and Dashiell Hammett by the Fund for Free Expression.

Pratt, Lorde and Chrystos will split a \$10,000 grant as the three lesbian writers who were harassed after receiving National Endowment for the Arts grants.

This is the first time any international rights organization of any variety has recognized lesbians and

gay men as the victims of political persecution, said Firebrand Books Publisher Nancy Bereano.

John Hersey, an executor of the Hellman and Hammett estates said, "Hellman and Hammett waged a lifelong battle against exactly the sort of political repression and censorship that turn up in the case histories of these courageous writers."

Past recipients include Margaret Randall, who was given this award because of the Immigration and Naturalization Service's attempts to deport her. ○

SPINFEX: NEW AUSTRALIAN FEMINIST PRESS

There will now be twice as many titles published by feminist presses in Australia each year thanks to the birth of Spinifex Press.

Susan Hawthorne and Renate Klein, who set up the press earlier this year, plan to publish four to six titles a year featuring "innovative and controversial writing that is both Australian and international." The creation of Spinifex brings the total number of independent Australian feminist presses to four, and the number of titles from feminist presses to about 10 a year, Hawthorne says.

Spinifex recently issued its first book — *Angels of Power*, an anthology addressing new reproductive technologies and featuring fiction, drama and poetry by feminist writers from Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the US. The title was selected as an Australian Feminist Book Fortnight Favorite for 1991. Forthcoming books include *Too Rich*, feminist crime fiction by Melissa Chan and *The Spinifex Quiz Book*, produced in association with the Australian Feminist Book Fortnight. The press also is co-producing a book with a US publisher. *RU 486: Misconceptions, Myths and Morals*, by Renate Klein, Janice G. Raymond and Lynette J. Dumble, will be available in the US from the Institute on Women and Technology, PO Box 338, North Amherst, MA 01059. Next year the press will publish fiction, possibly some poetry, women's studies and an art book.

Hawthorne and Klein both have strong backgrounds as writers, editors and publishers. Hawthorne worked as a commissioning editor at Penguin

Books, was responsible for the Penguin Australian Women's Library with series editor Dale Spender, and initiated the Penguin poetry series. She was a major force behind establishing the Australian Feminist Book Fortnight and won the Florence James Pandora Award for Outstanding Contribution to Women's Publishing. Klein is a biologist and researcher in women's studies and has been the editor of two international journals and an international series of feminist books. She was a founding member of FINRRAGE (Feminist International Network of Resistance to Reproductive and Genetic Engineering), one of the originators of the First International Feminist Book Fair and a founding member of the Australian Feminist Book Fortnight.

Bookpeople will distribute Spinifex titles in the US, while Daphne Brassell & Associates will distribute the books in New Zealand. In Australia, terms are firm sale, 35% discount and FIS for an order of more than 10 books.

For more information, contact Spinifex at 4/49-59 Stanley St., West Melbourne, VIC 3003 Australia; fax and phone 03-326-6934. ○

INBOOK TO DISTRIBUTE ALYSON TITLES

Starting July 1, InBook will handle all trade distribution for Alyson Publications. Sales representatives with InBook, the new distribution company affiliated with Inland Book Company, will solicit orders from bookstores directly. InBook also will supply other wholesalers, at wholesale discounts.

Alyson Publications issues books under its own name and under three imprints: Alyson Wonderland, Lace Publications, and Perineum Press. InBook will carry the full line. InBook also will carry the London-based GMP Publishers, formerly distributed by Alyson.

Other presses that recently joined InBook include Heretic Books, ICA (Institute for Contemporary Art) Editions, Redstone Press, Eclipse Books, Cohan and Cohen, and Turtle Island Foundation.

For more information on presses carried by InBook, contact the company at PO Box 120470, East Haven, CT 06512. The toll-free number for orders is

800-253-3605; for other business, 203-467-5434. Editorial work and publicity for Alyson Publications is still handled by the publisher. ○

BIO/BIBLIOGRAPHIC GUIDE TO LESBIAN WRITERS IN THE WORKS

In 1992, Greenwood Press will publish *Contemporary Lesbian Writers of the United States: A Bio-Bibliographical Critical Sourcebook*, a comprehensive reference guide to more than 50 lesbian writers who have published since the 1960s.

Editors Sandra Pollack and Denise D. Knight are seeking essays on these lesbian writers. Each essay will include five parts: a heading, a biography of the author, the author's major works and themes, the critical reception of her work, and a bibliography. Essays will range from 1,000-5,000 words.

Anyone interested in receiving a sample essay, in writing an essay, or suggesting writers for inclusion in the volume, should contact the editors before August 15, 1991. Contact Pollack at Women's Studies/-Humanities, Tompkins Cortland Community College, Dryden, NY 13053 (work phone 607-844-8211, home phone 607-277-1416); or Knight at Department of English, SUNY College at Cortland, Cortland, NY 13045 (work phone 607-753-2075). Final manuscripts are due December 31, 1991. ○

POLESTAR PRESS BOUGHT BY FORMER FEMINIST BOOKSELLER

Julian Ross and Ruth Porter Ross have sold Polestar Press to Michelle Benjamin, who managed the Ottawa Women's Bookstore for three years and most recently worked with Raincoast Books in Vancouver.

Polestar began publishing literary and general trade titles, including children's books and engagement calendars, in 1983 in rural Winlaw, British Columbia. Although Benjamin plans to operate the press from Vancouver, she will continue to publish a mix of literary and general trade titles, as well as to

expand the children's list. Forthcoming books include Kate Braid's first book of poetry *Covering Rough Ground*. Julian Ross will continue to publish engagement calendars under the imprint Polestar Calendars.

The new address for Polestar Press is PO Box 69382, Station K, Vancouver, BC, Canada V5K 4W6; phone, 604-251-9718. ○

"THE DISTRIBUTORS" DEVELOPS PLAN TO HELP SMALL PRESSES

"the distributors" has announced a new program to help small presses produce and promote their books.

Each month, the distributors will select one or more small presses to receive a non-refundable cash advance covering 50% of the total amount of the distributors' initial order for a specific title. The distributors will then present these selected titles to the national chain buyers, telemarket the books to 2,000+ bookstore accounts and give them free advertising in the distributors catalog and on their electronic ordering diskettes. The company has contributed \$50,000 to the initial fund. The Smaller Press Market Development Plan is designed to grow as money generated from the sale of small press titles is fed back into the revolving fund.

Publishers must apply to enter the selection process. For an application, contact the distributors at 702 S. Michigan St., South Bend, IN 46601; phone 219-232-8500. Books billed at 55% or more off the retail price, freight prepaid. ○

UPHEAVAL AT WOMEN'S PRESS/U.K.

News and rumors about firings, resignations and walk-outs, the alleged take-over and the feared demise of The Women's Press/U.K. began reaching FBN as we were going to press with the ABA issue in late April. Since that time, the dust has settled a bit, the shock abated, the grief clarified though hardly healed. Rather than report in detail the process — even if we had clarity on it from this distance — we'll take our lead from London feminists who

say that the energy there has shifted to doing what is necessary to continue.

Contrary to assumptions American feminists often make based on the Press's name, The Women's Press is not a woman-owned enterprise. Organizing feminist publishing under the auspices of a (male owned) corporation has been a primary organizing strategy in the U.K. as a way of accessing the operating capital that has made publishing on a large scale possible. Both the Women's Press and Virago were organized as "independent entities" under other corporations, trading degrees of independence for operating capital. Pandora Press was initially organized as an imprint of Routledge Kegan Paul. The buying, selling, mergers and take-overs affecting corporate publishing worldwide have not failed to have impact on the feminist presses. Pandora Press has been through four owners and is currently up for sale and threatened with closure if no buyer is found. The women who run Pandora are working at buying out of the corporate structure and, at last report, were thought likely to succeed. The economy that inspires corporations to divest subsections of their empires is, of course, a most difficult economy for raising capital to buy one's independence. Virago was in the process of buying out of the corporation that owned them when that company was purchased by Random-House. Clauses that allowed Virago to continue with the buy-out were included in the sales agreement, and Virago succeeded in becoming independent about two years ago, though not without entanglements regarding distribution. Sheba and Onlywomen presses are entirely woman-owned and -operated.

The Women's Press/U.K. is owned by the Namara Group which is owned by Naim Attallah, who has generally maintained a hands-off editorial policy over the years. Early this year, citing the financial situation (losses have been estimated at approximately £100,000/year for three years) and unresolved conflicts regarding managerial concerns, he intervened in Press affairs and effectively terminated the employment of the Press' long-term Managing Director Ros de Lanerolle. Options offered at the time included demotion to head of editorial, redundancy, and, too briefly to be viable, buying out the Press. Several reports indicated that reasons for severance also included publishing too many unprofitable books which has been taken to mean books by Black and

Third World women. Six women left their jobs at the Press in outrage and protest. Approximately 22 women were employed by the Press at the time in full-, part-time and freelance capacities.

Staff that resigned in protest include publicity director Judith Palmer; editor and Director Sarah Lefanu; editors Hannah Kanter and Judith Murray; Morven Houston and Ilva McKay. Allison Hennigan resigned from the Book Club. Suzanne Perkins resigned her directorship but remains on staff.

To understate a bit, all of this created extensive concern in the feminist community. Concerns articulated included: the impact of male ownership of a feminist press; the inappropriateness of a male-owner setting policy, editorial direction and doing hiring for a feminist press; the direction of the press; whether the resources of the press would be shifted to publishing primarily European women at the expense of Black women and Women of Color; whether books reflecting a watered-down or even "Thatcherite" version of "feminism" would be published; whether the press would shift to publishing block-buster mentality books; and the timing of a significant injection of capital, etc.

Piecing things together in hindsight it appears that Naim assumed the position of Managing Director for what turned out to be a fairly brief period. Stephanie Dowrick, who co-founded the Press with Naim, returned to England from Australia to aid in the transition, to take over as Chair of the board of directors from Naim, and to appoint and hire new staff.

Mary Hemming, previously Sales Manager has been appointed Managing Director. Kathy Gale (most recently Editorial Director at Pan Macmillan and previously sHodder and Stoughton, and Pluto Press) is the new Publishing Director. Carole Spedding (Feminist Book Fortnight and the International Feminist Book Fairs) is the new Managing Director of the Book Club. She remains Series Editor for the Women's Press' Livewire Books for Teenagers series. New members of the Board of Directors are Kathy Gale, Jennifer Bradshaw, an independent editor based in Scotland, and Nina Kidron, a founder and former Managing Director of Pluto Press. Remaining Board members are Naim Attallah, Mary Hemming, and David Elliot (previously of Namara's Quartet Books). Stephanie Dowrick is now Chair of the Board.

The proof of a publishing company is in the books it publishes, of course. Now that staff is in position, the

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remaining questions will be answered in The Women's Press' lists over the next several years. — CS ○

ROS DE LANEROLLE, OTHERS TO START NEW FEMINIST PRESS IN U.K.

Concluding that it's no good trying to have a feminist venture if it is not owned and operated by feminists, Ros de Lanerolle and a working party of women are establishing a new feminist press in the U.K. The core group includes Ros, Judith Palmer, Gillian Hanscombe, and several others who resigned positions at The Women's Press. Business plans are being written and fund-raising has already begun for the as yet unnamed new press. The initial plans are to raise a third to half of the funds from other women to keep control in women's hands, and then to turn to banks. They are half way to their initial goal, and expect to raise a total of £300,000 to start the press. For information about investing in the press, write to Ros de Lanerolle, 147 Northchurch Road, London N1 3NT. — CS ○

t h e n e w n o v e l b y

Andrea Dworkin

M E R C Y

"IN EVERY CENTURY,
THERE ARE A HANDFUL
OF WRITERS WHO HELP
THE HUMAN RACE TO EVOLVE.
ANDREA IS ONE OF THEM."

▶ GLORIA STEINEM

"A FANTASTICALLY
POWERFUL BOOK."

▶ THE GLASGOW HERALD (U.K.)

"(IN MERCY)

ANDREA DWORKIN
WRITES WITH
CUMULATIVE INDIGNATION,
NOT SO MUCH BECAUSE
SHE IS WOMAN
AS BECAUSE SHE IS FLESH.
HER PROSE MOVES US
BECAUSE OF WHAT SHE CALLS
'A PERFECT ATTENTIVENESS
TO DYING,'
A CONCEPT WORTHY OF
SIMONE WEIL OR BECKETT."

▶ PAUL WEST

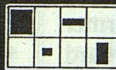
FEW WRITERS HAVE COME FORWARD IN OUR CENTURY WHO CARE DEEPLY ENOUGH, AND WHOSE VOICES ARE POWERFUL ENOUGH, FOR THEM TO BECOME SPOKEPERSONS FOR JUSTICE AND CIVIL RIGHTS. IN HER PROSE WORKS AND HER FICTION, ANDREA DWORKIN STANDS UP FOR WOMEN WHO SUFFER VIOLENCE AT THE HANDS OF MEN, AND IN SO DOING SHE DEFENDS EVERYONE. SHE DOES SO BY WARNING US OF THE NEARNESS OF SUCH VIOLENCE TO ALL OUR LIVES.

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LIKE ASSAULT,
IT BATTERS THE
HEART AND MIND.
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VERY IMPORTANT WORK."

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A COMMENTARY
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NEWS FROM THE BOOKSTORES

By Mary Ellen Kavanaugh

My Sisters' Words was 3½ years old on April 6. Business is good despite large numbers of layoffs in Central New York. I get great support in my community from groups and have recently seen solid sales at conferences ("Gender & Disability" and "Lesbian/Gay Youth") and from students needing to spend organizations' monies at the end of the year or lose it to "slush funds."

I taught composition classes and did house-cleaning jobs the first three years, but have been able to ease out of that and support myself solely through the store since the fall. In fact, I'm currently in the process of buying my first home. Since I'll probably be closed the last week in May I won't be attending ABA, but I envy those of you who are going to have the opportunity to spend a day together. I'm interested in hearing from any woman who owns a feminist bookstore by herself.

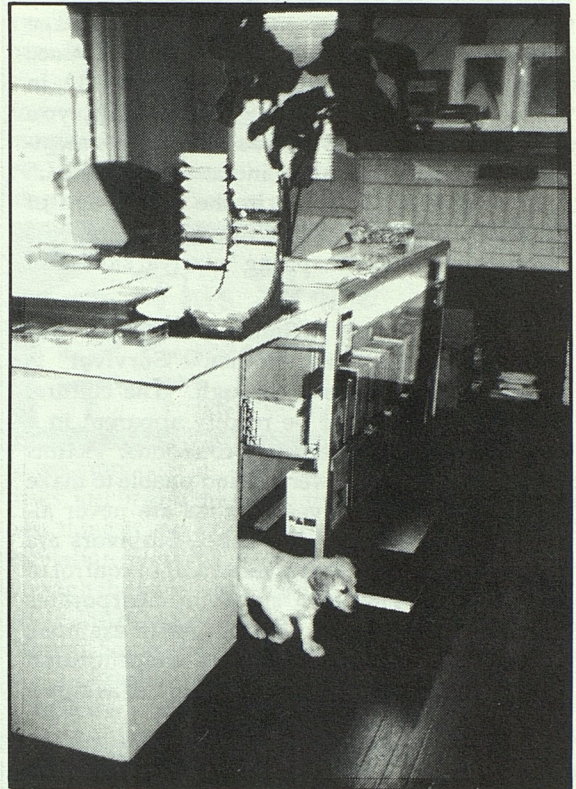
I'm also interested in any authors who are traveling through New York State. Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, and Ithaca, all of which have women's bookstores, are within a half day's travel of each other and I'd be glad to help coordinate reading in those four cities.

My Sisters' Words 304 N. McBride St, Syracuse, NY 13203. 315-428-0227.

Collected by Carol Seajay

Feminist bookstore networking extraordinaire: Shortly after reading about the new women's bookstore opening in Memphis, someone at Charis (Atlanta) mentioned the new store to their HBJ rep and suggested Meristem as a place for Alice Walker to read on her upcoming tour to promote *Her Blue Body*.... and, thanks to the well placed and well timed suggestion, the new bookstore hosted the Pulitzer Prize-winning author shortly after they opened. Knowing that more people would want to see and hear Walker than could

be accommodated in a 1½ hour signing, Meristem's owners Audrey May and Vickie Scarborough suggested that she also do a reading at a local Black college, and then coordinated the visit with college officials. "It was such an honor to have [Alice Walker]



Inklings' (Houston) latest staff addition is reported to be very good with customers and knows just what to recommend when a customer wants a novel "she can really get her teeth into."

in the store. Her work is so important. It was really the women's bookstore network at work that made it happen. And then we were able to set up the reading with LeMoyné-Owen College, and open up that door as well. It was phenomenal — a dream come true. It

Thought you might be interested in seeing a copy of this letter we just wrote to Ingram. – Mooneyan

ClaireLight Women's Books
1110 Petaluma Hill Rd, Suite 5
Santa Rosa CA 95404.
707-575-8879

Editor, Ingram Advance
Ingram
1125 Heil Quaker Blvd.
La Vergne, TN 37086

Dear Editor of Ingram Advance:

We are writing to point out some language use in the July 1991 issue of Ingram Advance that you may not be aware of. On page 12, in the description of *Dancing With Daddy*, you point out that "... as well as a survivor's memoir, that will appeal to incest victims and..." And again on page 53, in the description of *Abused Boys*, you state "The author presents thirteen firsthand inspiring 'survival stories' of victims..."

The dictionary definition of victim is "one harmed or killed by another." "Survivor" is defined as "to persist through." The cultural implications should be readily apparent in a society that is so recovery-conscious. Victims are often seen as powerless and unable to make choices for themselves. Victims are never allowed to overcome their label. Survivors are viewed as strong, empowered and in control of their lives. The term survivor incorporates more possibilities for healing. As an example, those who lived through the concentration camps of the Holocaust are referred to as survivors, not victims.

We realize that you may not personally write all the text that appears in the Advance and that publishers provide a good deal of it. However, as the leading wholesaler in the book industry, it is in your best interests to be aware of such controversial use of language and its implications.

Sincerely,
Mooneyan Grosch/Alisa Blatner

was one of the most wonderful of all the wonderful things that have happened since we decided to open the store," Audrey reported.



Full Circle (Albuquerque) discovered a sure-fire way to increase store security and safety when a karate studio opened next door to the bookstore. "They've even chased shoplifters for us."

Page One (Pasadena) writes that they didn't have to move after all. "We're still here, have been since 1984, and will be for a while longer, Goddess and urban renewal willing." They are, happily, still at 966 N. Lake Ave., Pasadena CA 91104.

Judith's Room (NYC) has "expanded," not in square feet, but in shelf space and by adding display tables in the center of the store.

Old Wives Tales (San Francisco) has closed their second, adjoining storefront to reduce their over-extended operating budget. They expanded into the storefront next door in 1988.

Overall, feminist bookstore sales are still increasing despite the recession. Stores in communities not (or not-yet) impacted by the recession are showing strong growth as are new stores, even in recession-hit communities. The worst figures I've heard came from a gay and lesbian store in a badly hit urban area that reported sales being 10% to 15% below last year from October to February, with sales beginning to pick up (though not yet caught up with last year) in the spring. Meanwhile the still relatively young Southern Sisters (Durham) reports that their business was up 28% during the first quarter of the year.

Birthdays this spring: Dreams and Swords (Indianapolis) celebrated their 9th. New Words turned 17 with their annual 20%- Off-Everything sale.

Dreams and Swords also sends word that extending their hours to 7 pm has resulted in a steady increase in evening business. They are now open from 10 am to 7 pm during the week and from 10:30 to 5 pm on Saturdays.



Taking Care of Business:

Store Security

By Melody Ivans

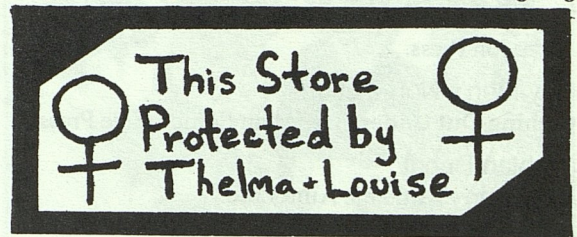
Southern Sisters, North Carolina

Nett Hart's brave and honest piece on resisting violence (in the last issue) was very important to us. We need to hear more of these stories from each other, and we need to share survival strategies. I've long been aware of my vulnerability to violence as 1) a woman 2) a funny looking independent unescorted woman 3) a visible feminist activist; I feel even more vulnerable as all of the above and now as a business woman, a feminist bookseller. Especially since the murder of my friend and colleague Bob Sheldon in the cute little, "safe" little college town next door, at his bookstore.

Southern Sisters, like Internationalist and like many alternative bookstores, is in an "iffy" neighborhood; it's what most of us can afford. I often work alone; we can't afford more staff yet. Sometimes I feel like a sitting duck, like every ad or flier we produce says "Hey, come rob these women: Hey, there's nobody but women here, and not the kind you approve of!"

In our nearly three years in business we've been robbed twice, both times quietly: we didn't see the thief until he was long gone. (Well, probably he once, probably she once. The second time we couldn't guess who the thief could have been, among all the nice women in the shop that day). We've had a break-in attempt and an inconsequential break-in, probably high school kids who lacked ambition to fool with our bottom box or computer or to mess the store up — whew. Most frighteningly, we were threatened by a man who meant to rob us and wouldn't have minded hurting us, but was far too stoned to carry through all his attentions. He cornered our eldest partner behind the big heavy front counter and brandished the scissors at her; we talked him out of doing worse, and the police arrived just after I'd finally succeeded in getting him out the front door. I've never been so angry and terrified.

So. We've installed a doorbell and signs that ask people to ring for admittance; common practice in New York or New Orleans, but it confuses many of our customers to have to ring and then wait for me to answer the door. We've spent money I'd much rather have invested in books on ironwork for the windows and an internal door to the room where jewelry is kept and we lock our money in that room at night. (Our burglars have shown no interest in feminist literature yet.) We hide extra cash in a ridiculous and inaccessible place during the day, and are cautious about going



to get more change. We back up our database up on disks, just in case the next burglars are ambitious. The best thing we've done is arrange a self-defense/de-escalation workshop for our staff and volunteers through the local women's dojo; we learned a lot, and got a lot of good support for our new, hard-won caution. Some of the staff practiced punching, kicking, and yelling *really loud* for the first time in their lives at the workshop. They loved it. It helps.

I'd love to hear what other stores do about security and safety; I'd especially love to hear more successful self-defense stories. My current fantasy is herding a would-be thief/rapist/murderer out the door with an electric cattle prod, but I think I really want a small thermonuclear bazooka for the ones with weapons.

Thoughts? Ideas? Advice? Stories? We need each other on this one, sisters. We need not to let the bastards get us down.

Southern Sisters, 411 Morris St, Durham, NC 27701 ○

1991

The Lambda Literary Awards



Lesbian Fiction

Out Of Time, Paula Martinac, Seal Press.

Gay Men's Fiction

The Body and Its Dangers, Allen Barnett, St. Martin's Press.

Lesbian Non-Fiction

The Safe Sea of Women, Bonnie Zimmerman, Beacon Press.

Gay Men's Non-Fiction

Coming Out Under Fire, Allan Berube, Free Press.

Lesbian Debut

Her, Cherry Muhanji, Aunt Lute.

Gay Men's Debut

Dancing on Tisha B'av, Lev Raphael, St. Martin's.

Lesbian Anthologies

Women On Women, ed. by Joan Nestle and Naomi Holoch, Plume.

Gay Men's Anthologies

Men on Men 3, ed. by George Stambolian, Plume.

Gay and Lesbian Humor

New, Improved! Dykes to Watch Out For, Alison Bechdel, Firebrand Books.

Gay Men's Poetry

Decade Dance, Michael Lassell, Alyson Publications.

Lesbian Poetry

Going Back to the River, Marilyn Hacker, Random House.

Lesbian Science Fiction/Fantasy

Gossamer Axe, Gael Baudino, ROC Fantasy.

Gay Men's Science Fiction/Fantasy (tie)

Magic's Price, Mercedes Lackey, DAW.

Secret Matter, Toby Johnson, Liberty Press.

Lesbian Mystery (tie)

Gaudi Afternoon, Barbara Wilson, Seal Press.

Ninth Life, Lauren Wright Douglas, Naiad Press.

Gay Men's Mystery

Howtown, Michael Nava, Harper Collins.

AIDS

The Way We Live Now, ed. by M. Elizabeth Osborn, Theatre Communications Group.

Gay Men's Small Press

Daddy's Roommate, Michael Willhoite, Alyson.

Lesbian Small Press (tie)

Different Mothers, ed. by Louise Rafkin, Cleis Press.

Making Face, Making Soul, ed. by Gloria Anzaldua, Aunt Lute.

Editor's Choice

The Encyclopaedia of Homosexuality, ed. by Wayne Dynes.

Publisher's Service Award

The James White Review, ed. by Greg Baysans and published by Phil Willkie.

Also presented at the Awards banquet:

The **Bill Whitehead Award**, presented annually by the Publishing Triangle, for lifetime achievement in the field of gay and lesbian literature, was given to James Purdy, author of such notable works as **Narrow Rooms**, **The Nephew**, **In a Shallow Grave**, and **Garments the Living Wear**.
See Awards, page 91

vijfde internationale feministische boekenbeurs

Fifth International Feminist Book Fair

By Gerda Meijerink, President
Hannie van Herk, Director

AMSTERDAM: We are very pleased to inform you that the Fifth International Feminist Book Fair will take place in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, from June 24-28, 1992. We cordially invite you to participate in this fair and to give us your support in its preparation.

The International Feminist Book Fair is a place where professionals in the area of woman's writing meet. During the previous fair in Barcelona (1990) 280 publishers and book-related organizations from five continents presented themselves. 150 writers participated in the numerous workshops, discussions, debates and panels. The 12,000 visitors and the enormous press and media coverage contributed to a major promotional effect for women's books.

The organizers of the Fifth International Feminist Book Fair aim to create another meeting place in Amsterdam for women from all over the world and to enable especially professionals from Latin American, African, Asian, Eastern and Middle European countries to participate in this fair. In this rapidly changing world — where changes are certainly not always for the better — it is now more necessary than ever before that women take account of their position and exchange their experiences. The Fifth International Feminist Bookfair seeks to provide the opportunity to have such exchanges in an open and respectful atmosphere.

General publishing houses, (that is, not specifically feminist publishing houses) will also be encouraged to present their women's list at this fair. After all, on many countries a situation has developed where major feminist writers have their work published with

general publishers. In order to do justice to the quality and diversity of women's writing, the Dutch organizers feel that the books on general publishers' lists and the authors themselves must be there.



from *Education des Femmes*

The Fifth International Feminist Book Fair will take place in one of the most beautiful buildings in the heart of Amsterdam. It is the Beurs van Berlage, which previously housed the Amsterdam Stock Exchange. The building is near the Amsterdam Central Station, right of the centre of a lively yet intimate city.

Amsterdam has some 30 publishing houses, hundreds of bookstores, two universities, numerous libraries, archives and feminist organizations. It is the city where Anne Frank wrote her famous Diary.

Amsterdam is the capital of a country where books play an important part: the per capita library lending figures are the highest in Europe, and there is no country in the world that matches the average spent on books. In terms of imports the Netherlands rank first as well: this country with its 15 million inhabitants imports as many English, French and German books as all other European countries put together.

These things make Amsterdam a city where the probability that the Fifth International Feminist Book Fair will become a success for all participants is high.

V International Feminist Book Fair

June 24 – June 28, 1992

Entrepotdok 66
1018 AD Amsterdam
The Netherlands

Tel: (20) 6381506 FAX: (20) 6380786

General Information

Detailed information about conditions and rental fees, as well as a preliminary programme and registration form will be sent in October. The Fifth International Feminist Book Fair will be represented at the Frankfurt Book Fair with a stand. Check under "Feministische" in the Frankfurt Buchmesse general catalogue, so that you can visit us there and pick up your registration form.

Amsterdam 1992

The first two days of the Fair (June 24 and 25) will be trade days.

These days, reserved for professionals only, will provide a series of workshops and round-table discussions in which attention is paid to various aspects of the book trade. The discussions will be built on those held in Barcelona.

During the trade days specialists will be invited to provide up to date information on the state of affairs in their particular area. We would like to include your suggestions in the planning of the trade days.

June 26, 27 and 28 will be open to the general public. A very lively programme of lectures, panel

discussions and workshops with women writers from all over the world will make it attractive to visit the fair and will stimulate book buying there.

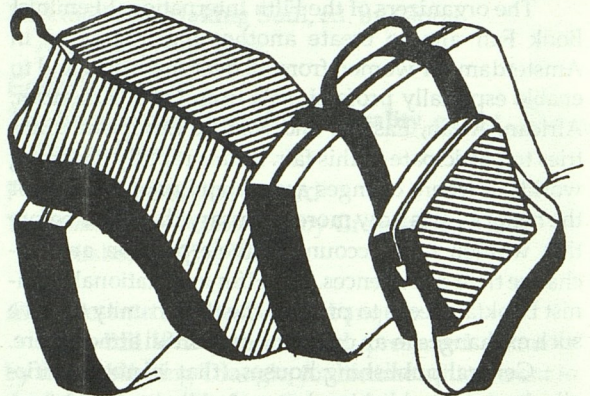
There will be simultaneous translations in Dutch, French, English and Spanish to enhance communication between women from all over the world and the general public. Exhibitions, a film and video programme, literary walking tours through Amsterdam, and parties will turn the Fifth International Feminist Book Fair not only into a business success, but also into a pleasant, inspiring and exciting event for all participants.

We are looking forward to seeing you!

N.B.: Good News from the Fourth International Feminist Book Fair.

The debates which took place in Barcelona in 1990 are being published! (in their original languages English, French, Spanish, Catalan, Italian and German plus a Spanish translation at the end). After summer holidays the book will be sent free of charge to all participants of the debates and round-table discussions. For others the price will be 2,000 pesetas plus 500 pesetas postage. The benefits will go to a special fund to help Third World professionals and authors to attend the Fifth International Feminist Book Fair. Please contact Maria-José Aubet in Barcelona, or the organizers of the Fifth Fair. Maria-José will attend the Frankfurt Book Fair, so if you drop her a line, she can bring copies with her.

IV International Feminist Book Fair: LaSale Fira, Valencia 302, Barcelona 08008, Spain.



Fifth International Feminist Book Fair: Entrepotdok 66, 1018 AD Amsterdam, The Netherlands, tel X 31(0)20-6381506, fax X 31(0)20-6380786. ○

ABA 1991 NYC

All in all, the mood of this year's ABA was upbeat and celebratory. A record number of feminist booksellers convened for Feminist Bookstores Day, Feminist/Gay/Lesbian Row (referred to several times during the convention as the most mellow aisle in the entire show) had a record number of booths. Sales were generally reported to be brisk and satisfactory, especially given the recession.

The Feminist Bookstores and Publishers Banquet was both a pleasure to attend and a great success. The South End Press/Monthly Review-sponsored Celebration of Critical Publishing reception was both packed and wonderful, as were the Feminist Press reception and the various readings at Judith's Room and Mosaic Books.

The Lammies were awarded amid much good humor from Kate Clinton with many more of the receiving authors in attendance than last year in Las Vegas.

Being in New York was just as intense, hectic, expensive, and maddening as everyone expected. ABA Convention records were set in every category of attendance; the location and the one-day passes made the convention accessible to publishing employees



ABA in the Javits Center Saturday morning.

who don't usually attend and also brought in a number of additional booksellers, including staff that might not have otherwise attended. Hopefully ABA will continue the one-day pass program at future venues, possibly improved by color coding either the badges themselves or by adding a large colored dot/sticker in the appropriate color to the badges.

There was a great rumor circulating at ABA that the feminist bookstores were planning a major demonstration at the Random House booths to protest the publication of *American Psycho*. (My favorite version was the one where we were to pour blood all over the exhibit.) Feminist bookstores did write, sign, and pres-

ent to R-H petitions protesting the book, and many stores very pointedly did not turn in orders for Knopf/Vintage titles or for the entire R-H line, but there was a very clear consensus that we would do nothing that would generate further publicity for the book or for the company.

The National Writer's Union and the American Society of Journalists and Authors did plan and carry out demonstrations at the convention. Fifty-some members of the two organizations demonstrated across the street from the convention and several members passed out leaflets at the Penguin booth. British Penguin gave U.K. writers unions a contract with many (though minimal) protections.

The demonstrations and leafletting were part of ongoing efforts to pressure Penguin USA to extend the same benefits and protections to writers here.

The question of policy for handling demonstrations on the convention floor was discussed at the

ABA board meeting preceding the convention and a resolution was proposed and passed regarding regulating demonstrations on the convention floor. This agenda item followed the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression business, an irony that I hope escaped no one.

On the down side, the cost of booth-rental was at record high. Considerable dissatisfaction over booth prices has been expressed in a number of forums. According to ABA, the profit from the Convention is a significant source of revenue for ABA and there is a growing sense that publishers are feeling ripped off by the ever increasing rates. Equally disturbing were the proposed by-law changes presented at the ABA annual membership meeting. So many booksellers either spoke against the proposed changes or expressed extreme reservation that the motion to adopt the changes was withdrawn. See elsewhere in this issue for more information. All in all it was quite a convention! ○

Feminist Bookstores Day '91

Seventy (!) feminist booksellers from 36 feminist bookstores (including three not-yet-opened) met for a day of meetings and workshops the Friday before ABA for the eighth year in a row. The day started with an informal bagel and coffee/tea breakfast provided by Womankind Books celebrating their venture into publishing as Rising Tide Books and the release of their first two books, *Romancing the Dream* by H.H. Johanna and *The Edge of Passion* by Shelley Smith.

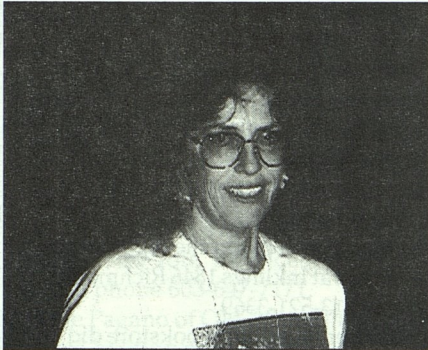
Wanting to get into the financial workshop (see story following) as quickly as possible, we zipped through introductions in a record amount of time. I only caught sales figures from two-thirds of the stores attending, but they added up to \$6,500,000. Given that the other third of the stores included a fairly representative range of large to small stores, I think it's safe to say that the 33 stores gathered for FBD this year represent \$10 million in annual sales. Given that these figures represent the sales of less than a third of the feminist bookstores in the U.S. and Canada, I think it's safe to estimate that our total sales were at least \$30 million in 1990 — and that, despite the recession, our

national growth rate will continue to be in the double-digit percents in 1991.

The afternoon session included short workshops and discussions covering: "Your Store's Best Innovation, Event, or Idea And/Or Your Thorniest Problem of the Last Year" chaired by Pokey Anderson/Inklings (see sidebar); the ongoing boycott of Knopf/Vintage in response to their publication of *American Psycho*, led by Vivian Scheinmann, Pandora Book Peddlers; expanding your staff and staying feminist, facilitated by Ann Christopherson/Women and Children First; Nett Hart's "Seller Beware" column (FBN, Vol. 13 #5) led by Sally Owen/Judith's Room. Sandi Torkildson/A Room of One's Own spoke briefly on the importance of customer service and building customer loyalty. Pam Sheldrick/Pandora Book Peddlers led a discussion on publisher and distributor problems. The Feminist Press' decision to withdraw their titles from Inland was the problem most frequently cited, and an informal petition asking The Feminist Press to reconsider their decision was drawn up, circulated, and given to the Press. They are studying their distribution plan and seemed to take the suggestions very seriously.

The proposed revisions to ABA's by-laws were discussed at length (see ABA Membership Meeting story for details) and discussion initiated last year about creating feminist book awards was continued during a half hour session and in several other forums over the course of the convention. Mona Oikawa/Toronto Women's Bookstore read excerpts from a letter written by TWB Collective asking why Kitty Tsui's book *The Words of a Woman Who Breathes Fire* has gone out-of-print and recommending that it be reprinted. The letter stressed the book's demonstration of the interconnectedness of racism, homophobia and sexism, its powerful images, the near-invisibility of Asian lesbians in lesbian literature, and the significance of the loss of this title to the bookstore. TWB encouraged other bookstores to express their support for this title to Aunt Lute.

Additional meetings were scheduled to discuss feminist bookstore book awards, computerization and unethical competition practices of some of the gay-male owned bookstores. The problems of competition between stores owned by gay men and feminist bookstores (ethical and un-ethical) continued as a discussion at the feminist bookstore roundtables at ABA.



Sandra K. Martz of Papier Mache Press accepting an honorary award for *When I Am Old I Shall Wear Purple* at the ABBY presentations.

Feminist (Bookstore) Book Awards

This was a continuing discussion from last year's meeting. To move things along, Ann Morse (FBN) and I wrote up a proposal incorporating the suggestions from last year with some ideas that have evolved since then, and mailed them to booksellers attending FBD. We talked through the half-hour allotted on the agenda, some of us met for an hour before the trade-show opened on Sunday morning,

and the discussion continued at one table during the ABA-sponsored Feminist Bookstores Roundtables and continued over dinners, in cabs and on subways. As always, when 70 fine minds come together to



Makeda Silvera (l.) showing new Sister Vision titles to Rose Katz on the Feminist, Gay, and Lesbian aisle.

create something, there were at least 150 visions flying around. Eventually the question became how to focus these ideas and reach an effective consensus. The last group that met concluded that FBN should write up the ideas we presented, a summary of the other ideas presented, and as many pros and cons of everything as possible, and send out a series of two or three "newsletters" on the topic to feminist booksellers. The first missive would include all the ideas gathered to date, the second would be composed of responses and ideas generated by the first issue, and a third issue could be done if necessary for the responses to the responses. By the end of the third issue it would be assumed that everyone who wanted to have input would have had a chance to present their opinions and visions, and a vote (or series of votes) leading toward a Feminist Bookstore Book Award we could all enthusiastically support could be taken. Ideally all this will be achieved before the Holiday madness sets in and the program could be initiated as early as next spring. Stay tuned!

In a related suggestion, Theresa Corrigan suggested that feminist bookstores sponsor and present a Feminist Bookstores Award at the Lammies as a way to acknowledge the tremendous contribution of feminist bookstores to lesbian and gay literature and to increase the visibility of feminist bookstores.

Feminist Bookstores Network

Several years ago Mary Morrell proposed that we create a formal organization called Feminist Bookstores Network (FBN!) as a visible public image for the informal network we already have. Everyone seemed to think it a good idea and, anarchists that we are at heart, no one has done anything to formalize the concept in the years in between, though several people have made good use of the idea along the way: i.e., when Mary Morrell spoke at the ABA Membership meeting, she cited the meeting of the Feminist Bookstores Network (where 60% of the ABA members in attendance reported that they hadn't received copies of the ABA's proposed by-law changes prior to leaving for ABA). Theresa Corrigan added "Member of the Feminist Bookstores Network" to her business cards this year and suggested that other stores do likewise as one means of enhancing the visibility of feminist bookstores. ("Let 'em know we're here at every opportunity!")



Cindy Cleary staffing Aunt Lute Foundation Booth.

In the course of discussing the book awards at one of the smaller meetings, some suggestions were made as to the definition of "feminist bookstore" for the purposes of deciding who would be eligible to nominate books and/or participate in the awards selections. These suggestions will come up again in the Feminist Bookstore Book Awards newsletters, but I repeat them here in the event that booksellers want to consider them at the FBD next year. The suggestion at this meeting was that a feminist bookstore is a bookstore that is: 1) owned (entirely) by women or by one woman

(and that, if a board of directors exists, it is composed entirely of women). 2) that 80% of the stock is written by women. 3) that a primary commitment of the bookstore is to feminism, and 4) that there is a strong commitment to feminist (including lesbian) publishing.

Telephone Trees, Retreats and Canoe Trips

Other suggestions during the day included the development of a phone tree (arranged by zip code for economical calling), one (or several) bookseller/boundary waters canoe trips (!) and a weekend-long retreat.

FBN will set up the phone tree for distribution in September when we update the \$1 Women's Bookstores List.

Theresa Corrigan (Lioness), Pokey Anderson (Inklings), and Mary Farmer (Lammas) are the crew working on the retreat. Theresa reports that they're looking at a three-day retreat over the 1992 Labor Day weekend and that they are actively looking for places to hold the gathering. If you know of retreat facilities/camps, etc. in your area, please call or write to Theresa with information. She needs to know the number of people the site can accommodate, the cost of renting the site (or the cost per person), a brief description of the facility and tell her how far in advance the site needs to be booked. (Lioness Bookstore, 2224 J Street, Sacramento CA 95816. 916-442-4657.) Pokey Anderson and Barb Wieser are organizing a feminist booksellers canoe trip to/through the Boundary Waters area on the Canadian/Minnesota border. Contact Pokey with dates and ideas. Barb (co-editor of *Rivers Running Free*) will do the logistics and trip planning. Call Pokey at Inklings 1846 Richmond Ave., Houston TX 77098. 713-521-3369.

Barb Wieser/Amazon Bookstore did a wonderful job of organizing the day, polling bookstores for their desired agendas, finding women to lead the various sessions, *and* keeping us on schedule throughout the day. Theresa Corrigan (Lioness Books, 2224 J St., Sacramento CA 95816; 916-442-4657) will organize next year's meeting. Diane Higgs/Different Drummer (1027-A N. Pacific Coast Highway, Laguna Beach CA 92651; 714-497-6699) will attend to the logistical details of space and lunch, and possibly organize a Thursday night "drop-in" place for booksellers to gather informally as they arrive. ○

Photos by G. Spector. Courtesy of American Booksellers.

Ideas, Innovations and Thorny Problems

Pokey Anderson of Inklings in Houston, TX got the second half of Feminist Bookstore's Day off to a great start with a half-hour session highlighting the assembled stores' best innovations, events and ideas of the past year.

She also shared a successful, sweat-free promotion that Inklings hosted: When the Women's Chorus in Houston asked to use Inklings' parking lot for a bake sale site the store quickly agreed. Both the chorus and the store benefited from each other's customers, but the event didn't involve any extra work on the store's side. (Since returning from ABA, Inklings has become involved in a rather more labor-intensive promotion. Co-owner Annise Parker is running for Houston City Council as an openly lesbian candidate. She's described in news stories as Parker, co-owner of Inklings Bookstore! How's that for visibility!)

Here's a look at some other suggestions shared during this session at Bookstore's Day:

* Anne Frost and Mary Morrell of Full Circle in Albuquerque, NM advocate selling tote bags with your store's logo printed on the side. The bags cut bagging costs and make great advertising when your customers carry them all over town. Full Circle orders its bags from Enviro-Tote, 105 McGregor St., Manchester, NH 03102; phone 603-647-7171.

* Darlene Pagano of Old Wives Tales in San Francisco suggests holding special nights for members of local women's organizations. Interested stores should ask an organization to advertise the evening in its newsletter and announce it at meetings. The store can promise to donate a certain percentage — say 15 percent — of the sales for that night to the organization. The event gives the organization a comfortable and easy social event and fundraiser and the store gains customers, good public relations and sales. Because the organization will advertise the event, the whole evening will cost the store no more than the price of staffing it for the event and the discount.

* Lioness and Gifts of Athena bookstores both talked about their membership programs. (For a closer look at membership programs and discount cards see FBN V13#6.) Theresa Corrigan of Lioness in Sacramento, CA offers customers punchcards with 200 dots, each dot equaling \$1 spent in the store. If a customer fills a card within a year, she receives \$20 credit. If it takes more than a year to fill a card, the customer receives \$10 credit.



Jezanna reading FBN in Alison Bechdel's *New, Improved Dykes to Watch Out For*.

At Gifts of Athena in Cleveland Heights, OH, customers are encouraged to "invest in their bookstore" by purchasing a \$100 gift certificate for themselves or a friend, said owners Susan Bennett and Heather Thorp. The certificates are good for one book a month until the \$100 is gone. This way, the store receives cash upfront and has a year to pay it back, and customers contribute directly to the store and so feel involved in the store's welfare.

As another service to customers, the women who run Gifts of Athena have opened up a back room in

their shop as a chemical-free, smoke-free place for post-softball game gatherings. This is the sort of gesture that increases customer loyalty, brings in new customers and generates goodwill.

* Tollie Miller from The Reader's Feast in Hartford, CT shared a great promotion that just fell into the store's hands. The local alcoholism program bought \$1,000 worth of gift certificates from the store and gives clients \$5 certificate to use toward the purchase of books. They couldn't ask for a better way to introduce customers to their recovery books.

* Sandi Torkildson at A Room of One's Own in Madison, WI suggests booksellers encourage local schools, universities and community groups to buy from their stores. ARO³ also runs a discount program, under which a \$10 fee earns customers a 10% discount on books. (See FBN V13#6 for details.)

* Page Miller and Jennie Boyd Bull from the Thirty-first Street Bookstore in Baltimore said their store has set aside an area for women's art. Every six weeks the store holds a reception for a new artist, thus

bringing women's art to the community and new customers to the store. In honor of the store's upcoming anniversary, they've asked women in the community to bring in T-shirts that mark historic women's celebrations, protests and lives.

* Barb Wieser from Amazon Bookstore in Minneapolis, MN touted the benefits of computerization. The store recently converted to Wordstock, a computerized inventory program.

* Vivian Scheinmann and Pam Sheldrick of Pandora Book Peddlers (Englewood, NJ) advocated selling at conferences, while Emma Women's Books and Gifts in Buffalo, NY advised stores to look into becoming certified as a minority (women-owned) business. In New York State, the government must do a certain portion of business with minority-owned businesses. The state asked the bookstore to become certified as such a business so that when the government needs to purchase books, it can fulfill its requirement to do business with a minority-owned shop. ○

A Few Highlights from the \$ Financial Workshop

The first — and most frequently suggested — workshop topic for this year's Feminist Bookstores' Day was Finance. Several feminist booksellers had attended one-day workshops on bookstore finances given by Neal Sofman (of A Clean Well Lighted Place for Books) in conjunction with regional bookstore associations and suggested replicating that workshop — or better yet, asking Neal if he would consider doing the workshop for us in NYC. He was not only willing — he presented the workshop at no charge. It was an excellent workshop, one that *everyone* from future-booksellers to long-term booksellers found useful. Neal's own love of bookselling and vision of bookselling as both a mission and a lifestyle choice created an atmosphere that made common sense out of even the most irritating financial concepts. The whole experience was so successful that we're considering doing a day-long workshop on finances next year on the

Thursday before ABA. If ABA or your regional booksellers association offers the workshop, make time to attend and take as many staffers as possible. It offers a wealth of information in the form of practical financial skills that every feminist bookseller needs on a daily basis.

I wish it were possible to replicate the entire workshop on these pages. But if it was easy to transcribe and replicate, Neal would have a bestseller on his hands. Instead, I'll repeat a few of Neal's suggestions.

Keep good financial records and know — or learn — what you're doing. Obviously.

Some bookstores — and some people who advise booksellers — are very committed to keeping open-to-buy budgets. Neal's opinion is that they take much more time to keep than they are worth and that the key information can be obtained in other, less time-consuming, ways.

Keep a notebook at the sales counter to record the titles for all books requested by customers that you don't have — either because you're out of the book or because it's a title you don't carry. Such a notebook can become a very important and useful resource for the buyer and gives good feedback regarding sales lost by being out-of-stock and lets you know what your customers want that you don't have.

Neal outlined a three step process for reducing inventory size — whether because the inventory is simply too big for sales, or to adjust for declining sales in a recession.

1) Do returns.

2) Simultaneously slow down the buy: order 2 copies where you've previously ordered three. Order one where you've ordered two. And keep an eye on the requested-but-out-of-stock notebook to know where you can reduce quantity successfully and where you're overdoing it and hurting sales.

3) Let go of discount as a priority and go for speed of turnaround instead: For example, instead of ordering a three-month supply of a title from the publisher (combined with other titles for a higher discount) order more frequently in small(er) quantities from a wholesaler that will get you the books within the week. Neal cautions that reducing inventory is a two-to four-month process — not an over-night solution — and that "over-inventoried" is a relative term. He usually keeps his store at 10-15% above the "optimal" inventory level.



Knowing when *not* to re-order a book is as important as ordering it in the first place. Some front-list books become backstock that sells forever — but many don't and need to be dropped from the inventory. *Not* re-ordering a title when its time is past is much cheaper than returning it 6 to 9 months after it has stopped selling entirely....

If you under-insure (a decision that makes financial sense in some situations) be sure there is no co-insurance clause on your policy that will prevent you from collecting to the full value of your loss (up to the

Harriet



New Improved Dykes to Watch Out For.

limit of your policy.) I hadn't known that you *could* get insurance without such a clause.

Believing more in promotions than advertising, Neal described one of his favorite promotions: Every December for the last few years, he's run a promotion that is a benefit for a hospice in his area. The store offers the hospice 1% of all sales to customers who mention the hospice benefit (up to a maximum donation of \$1,000). The hospice (or whatever organization) promotes the benefit to their membership in their newsletter and, with very little effort on their part, get a sizable donation and some additional public visibility. The bookstore gets "free" publicity, and people who support Hospice will go out of their way to do some of their holiday shopping at the store, generating new customers and extra sales, and the benefit generates goodwill all around.

Bookkeeping? When customers mention the Hospice benefit, their receipts (or a slip of paper noting the amount if they need to keep the receipt) are put in a box. All the receipts are added up at the end of the month and Hospice gets 1% of the sales — up to \$1,000. Neal added that the sales slips for a successful promotion — and certainly for this one — always add up to more than the amount necessary to generate the maximum donation — making it a very effective benefit for Hospice and a very effective promotion for the store.

Note: This kind of promotion works for the bookstore only if it reaches *new* customers and brings in new people to the store.

-CS O

Canadian Contingent at Feminist Booksellers'/Publishers' Banquet

The banquet Alice Frier and Lee Boojamra (Woman-kind Books and Rising Tide Publishing) organized for feminist bookstores and feminist publishers was clearly one of the highlights of the convention. After a hard day on the convention floor dealing with the entire book industry, it was a relief and a pleasure to sit down to dinner with a few (OK! with eighty!) of one's closest friends and co-workers. By inviting a number of women to speak briefly about various topics, Lee and Alice created a "living room conversation" type atmosphere. The five to ten minute talks covered everything from the history of the women-in-print movement to effective covers (from the booksellers' perspective) to a publisher describing receipt of payments from feminist bookstores before they were due — and what incredible support that was during a financially difficult period. My only regret was failing to bring my tape recorder and being too tired to take good notes. Luckily, at least one speaker wrote her words down, so here's one "snapshot" of the evening. If other speakers want to write up their notes and send them in, I'd love to publish them in the next issue.

-CS



Hi. My name is Lois Fine and I'm here with Women's Press from Canada. I'm speaking as part of a Canadian contingent of Women's Press, Sister Vision Press, and Press Gang, those of us who had attended the feminist publishers' meeting on Thursday.

I myself have been with Women's Press for about a year and a half and while there are certain complexities of publishing that take a long time to learn, there are certain facts that are striking and immediate.

One of these lies in some of the differences between publishers in the US and in Canada. As Canadian publishers, we sell to a Canadian market that is one tenth of the size of the US market. Now, for that

to hit home, just think of your sales, whether you are booksellers or publishers and divide them by ten.

Part of the reason for this drastic difference in market size lies in sheer numbers. The US population is about 10 times higher than Canada's. But there is another reason for our vastly smaller market. That is that if you go into any Canadian bookstore, you will find a *minimum* of 80% of its stock is American titles. Now, I can't imagine ever being able to say that of any bookstore in the US, that 80% of its stock is Canadian!



On Thursday at the publishers' meeting, at one point the presses split into large and small presses, with the dividing line being, among other things, having \$150,000 in sales.

Well, just to give you an idea of how subjective the terms large and small publisher are, I can tell you that $\frac{2}{3}$ of the publishers who are part of the Association of Canadian Publishers (and this includes mainstream, educational presses), $\frac{2}{3}$ of these publishers have sales under \$200,000.

So it must all tell us something when there are easily a dozen feminist presses in the US whose sales number higher than $\frac{2}{3}$ of the publishers in the Association of Canadian Publishers.

Over the course of the ABA, you will see a good number of Canadians, both publishers and booksellers. Canadians come to the ABA. Now, I'll tell you something I bet you didn't know. There is an event called the CBA, the Canadian Booksellers Association. It's held in Toronto in July and it's a lot like the ABA only it's for Canadian booksellers. And while the

booths are a great deal for the money, I don't think that there will be even one US publisher exhibiting. And while there are some great books and some great bargains to be had, I don't think that there will be too many US bookstores shopping around.

We are here at the ABA to make our presence known. Canada is not a homogeneous society, just like the US isn't. We can't be lumped into a corner of the store with wolves and mountains and snow and be called Canadian content.

There are all kinds of thriving communities in Canada. There is not one "Canadian" experience much like there could not be one "American" experience.

We want you to buy our books. If we can only get 20% of the shelves in Canadian bookstores, then we

want 20% of the shelves in the US. We are not rich Canadians heavily funded by our government. Some of us have been eligible for some government money to cover our otherwise large deficits. Other presses have not had high enough sales or enough books on their backlist to be eligible for any government assistance.

Sister Vision Press is Canada's Black women and Women of Colour press. They have survived and grown for six years without eligibility for government funding and have managed to produce high quality books both politically and aesthetically because of the dedication of the women who are Sister Vision.

Sister Vision books, Press Gang books, and Women's Press books should be on your shelves. Not because they are excellent Canadian books, but because they are excellent books. ○

Membership Meeting

The ABA Membership meeting, ironically, turned out to be one of the more satisfying events of the Convention. It was, as one feminist bookseller with many years of activism under her belt, commented, very odd and very pleasant to find oneself in the majority. A wide range of booksellers stood up to speak about the proposed by-laws changes. A few booksellers spoke for the proposed changes, but so many more expressed strong reservations that the motion to approve the by-laws was withdrawn. Midway through the discussion an advocate of the changes proposed that speakers for and speakers against alternate and that comments be limited to three minutes — both of which were voted down, the first verbally, the second by a formal vote. It seemed clear from that point on that there wasn't enough support in the room to pass the by-laws.

Speakers expressing reservations about the proposed by-laws included, among many others, Mary Morrell/Full Circle, Association of Booksellers for Children president Betty Takeuchi, ABA past-president Joan Ripley, new ABA Board Member Bill Petrocelli, lawyer for the NCBA lawsuit against mass market publishers unfair discounts policies and co-owner of Book Passages and many other booksellers. Reservations regarding the proposed changes were not

unexpected — what was unexpected was the number and range of booksellers who expressed their concerns.

Speakers objected to having the executive director on the board, on the steering committee, and/or as a required member of the steering committee quorum empowered to make decisions in emergencies. Changing the executive director's title to president was seen as inappropriate for this type of organization. Booksellers spoke to the need to have the official spokesperson for the organization continue to be a bookseller. Shifting authority for spending policy decisions away from the board was also a significant concern. Increasing the authority of the head of staff to oversee funds for programs that had specifically been approved by the board was not seen as a problem.

One speaker took issue with examples of other organizations that were claimed to have similar structures to the structure being proposed. Her research indicated that in none of those organizations was the head of staff a voting member on the steering committee or emergency quorum, and that in some of the organizations cited, the head of staff was an ex-officio member of the board, rather than a voting member.

Specific concerns about the by-laws were raised: i.e., one article specifically authorized the executive director/"president" to sign checks, but another article



NWU & ASJA demonstrating for improved author contracts at ABA.

specified that all checks must be co-signed. More serious were the legal ramifications of making the head of staff an officer of the corporation (which goes with being a member of the steering committee), a situation that could result in a lengthy legal battle in the event that a person in that position was fired or even not re-hired.

Questions were raised about the direction ABA is currently moving. Several booksellers stated that ABA is meeting fewer of their needs than in times past and/or that ABA does not adequately serve small bookstores, echoing concerns expressed by feminist bookstores at last years Feminist Bookstore Roundtable (see FBN 13:2). Questions were also raised about why the STOP program is degenerating, about why ABA (via BOS) is venturing into publishing encyclopedias, why ABA is spending \$600,000/year to support Garrison Keillor's radio show, etc.

There was also concern that, while two years of hard work on the part of the board and by-laws committee went into the proposed changes, the only changes brought forward increased the centralization of power in the ABA paid staff while other, equally important changes that would re-empower the membership, were neglected. Specifically, the restrictions for nomination by petition (as opposed to nomination by the Board-appointed nominating committee) are extremely stringent: each bookseller may sign only

two petitions, no more than 15 of the required 100 signatures may be from any one state, no photocopies of petitions are allowed, *and* all the circulating and filing must be completed within 30 days of the time the membership is notified of the names of nominees. The lack of attention to grassroots concerns while focusing on central-office concerns contributed to the feeling of unease.

Much of the assembled membership was also quite displeased with the lack of advance information about these changes. In addition to a lack of information in expected venues such as *Newswire* and *American Bookseller*, as many as 40% of member bookstores did not receive copies of the proposed changes before they left for ABA. There seemed to be no pattern to this problem: ABA Board members were among those who didn't receive copies of the proposed changes.

In addition, there was a consistent reaction to the oft-expressed sentiment that the Board members had worked hard on these changes and that members should therefore "just trust" the Board's recommendation. Sincere as those statements were, ABA is happily made up of booksellers who see ABA as a membership organization and see themselves as responsible decision makers — and they want the information necessary to make informed decisions affecting the direction of their organization.

The suggestion from the podium that people were uncomfortable with change and rapid growth did not go down at all well with the assembled members — many of whom have guided their stores through much rapid growth and thrive on it.

Perhaps it was this air of paternalism that provoked children's booksellers and feminist booksellers to be among the first to speak against the proposed changes — women and children being those most often expected to turn their power over to "higher-ups." As one (male) observer commented at the end of the meeting, "In this organization it doesn't pay to mess with women and kids."

Note: The sexist use of "Chairman" was amended to "chair" at the beginning of the meeting as part of the motion to accept the by-laws. It was also suggested from the floor that the title of Vice-Chairman be similarly changed. This change was accepted as part of the intent of the change to "chair." -CS O

WOMENSOURCE: Three Years Later And Still Making New Offers!

By Mev Miller

The ABA is always a booster for me. It's an opportunity to meet with booksellers, publishers and authors in order to discuss women's publishing, politics, discover new ideas, receive praise...and criticism, and to come home exhausted yet energized. This year, I came back also having promised Carol that I'd write an article for FBN about the Inland Womensource program.

As you know, Inland has been consistently committed to making available a wide variety of women's, feminist and lesbian titles from the small and independent presses. If you want it, we probably have it or will try to get it. In the Fall of 1988, Inland introduced, with the encouragement of some women's publishers, the Womensource catalogue. Womensource was designed to feature the titles of women's presses dedicated to publishing books by, for, and about women. These titles include fiction, non-fiction, feminist, lesbian, women of color, women with disabilities, health and healing, spirituality, politics, children, and so on. In general, these titles represent the wide range of women's experiences while challenging current power structures and defining women's own societal relationships. By featuring these publishers in the Womensource catalogue, Inland makes their titles easily accessible through a central

In my pay job, I'm the Sales Manager at Inland Book Co. and feel that my working here is important political work for the women's and lesbian community. The rest of the time, I'm a writer, gardener, book collector, student, softball coach, rabble rouser, lesbian activist and community organizer. I keep busy.
— Mev

distribution point and offers higher discounts for larger quantities. I often just leaf through the Womensource catalogue myself in amazement at the number of quality women's presses that now exist and the variety of titles they produce. It's impressive that women's publishing has come so far and continues to be integral to the developing and supporting of women's issues.



In the past three years, Womensource has grown from the initial 26 publishers to now including 55 publishers. The program has expanded so that both the frontlist and backlist combine for better discounts. In addition, the catalogue now includes an annotated backlist and a complete author index.

In talking with publishers and bookstores, there still seems to be some question about how the

Womensource program actually works specifically in relation to orders that stores may want to place using the regular Inland catalogue. Well, first of all, the special discount schedule applies only to the titles listed in the Womensource catalogue. Titles from the regular catalogue do not combine with Womensource titles for discount. You may place an order out of the regular Inland catalogue at the same time you place a Womensource order and the two orders can be shipped together in order to minimize shipping costs, or separately — whichever you prefer. However, we will always invoice the Womensource order separately from the regular Inland order because of the differing discounts. Some stores also find this handy for receiving purposes. We also now have the capacity to generate invoices either in alphabetical order by title or by the way you place your order. Let us know if this is important to you. When you place your orders, inform us if you are making a Womensource order and for what discount it qualifies. For example, when Laura Zimmerman from New Words calls, she'll say "I have two orders to place today — a Womensource at xx% and a regular order." It's easy and it's fun! Finally, we encourage you to backorder the frontlist titles. You will get the original discount earned and they can be shipped to you on arrival.

And what is *new from Womensource*? Periodically, a store will ask if they can reproduce our catalogue to use for their own customers. We are still working on it, but in the near future we plan to make the internal section of the Womensource catalogue available to stores for your own purposes!

So, for example, if you want 1,000 or more copies, we can reproduce at cost the content section of the Womensource catalogue (minus the Inland information, obviously) with a cover on which you can put your own store name and logo. For quantities less than 1,000, we'd give you just the contents at cost. You can then use these as handouts for your customers or as addendums to your own mailings! Let us know if you are interested so that we can better anticipate the demand and be more specific about the cost.

Overall, Womensource provides visibility to a growing number of quality women's presses and titles. Also it encourages stores trying to develop a well-rounded women's section with a usable tool and clear information. And finally, Womensource continues to support the women's and feminist bookstores (the pri-

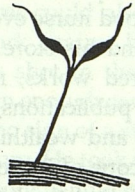
mary outlet for women's publishing) by continuing to offer one central source from which to obtain at better discounts the many books available from various publishers. The staff at Inland is always willing to answer questions about specific titles, to provide bestsellers lists when needed, or locate certain books in specific categories. By the way, while Womensource can be used as a primary tool for creating women's issue's sections in any store, it does not represent all the women's titles available from Inland. Be sure to check our subject catalogue for a complete list.

If you have any questions or problems about the Womensource program, call me at 1-800-243-0138 and don't forget to let me know how many catalogues you want!



Honoring Life Honoring Work

A Tribute to Bob Sheldon



On the evening of February 21, someone walked into Internationalist Books in Chapel Hill, North Carolina and fatally shot Bob Sheldon, the store's owner and founder, and a long-time community activist. As of ABA, there were still no serious leads toward finding the murderer. Although many of FBN readers will have read about Bob's death in other publications, we wanted to find a way to pay tribute to Bob and his work. When I saw Melody Ivin's article in The (Lesbian) Newsletter from North Carolina, it was clear that the tribute had arrived.

— CS

By Melody Ivins, Southern Sisters
Reprinted from *The Newsletter*, April 1991

If you knew Bob Sheldon or his bookstore, Internationalist Books in Chapel Hill, you already know why it is appropriate that a lesbian feminist newsletter honor him. Bob was that rarest of creatures, a straight, white, middle-class, educated, American man who stood up for everyone who wasn't straight, white, middle-class, educated, American, or male. He stood up for everybody all the time, for so many years that we had the luxury of taking him for granted. The bookstore he created with ten years of unrelenting work was a wonderful resource for scholars and adventurous readers, and a necessary one for activists and expatriates. Bob endorsed, helped organize, and hauled book tables to every event — Pride, peace marches, Human Rights Week, protests, festivals, conferences — that would have him and his books. He sponsored readings and discussion groups celebrating Third World authors long before it had occurred to anyone else in our area to do so. He helped found North Carolina's first Green Party.

Internationalist was one of the few public spaces in the Triangle where it was safe and okay to be openly lesbian, or gay, African, Arab, Latina, Chinese, a witch,

six or eighty-two, Socialist, Communist, or whatever. Whoever you were, Bob had books and information and respect for you. Many of us remember Bob dropping everything else to talk to us, to listen to us, whatever was on our minds and whatever we were looking for; how many of us realized that every conversation like that meant he'd work late hours that evening, catching up? Bob made it look easy. He obviously loved talking, helping, listening a story right out of you, arguing, laughing. He asked inspired leading questions.



Like many who lived in Chapel Hill in the mid-seventies, I first remember Bob as an irritating young man, "Commie Bob," who seemed to believe that shouting at a crowd through a bullhorn, or lecturing at our long-suffering professor of socialist theory, would change the world for the better. I waited on Bob and his cadre at Breadmen's back then, and complained that they took up a big table for hours while they yakked about solidarity with the proletariat, were rude and demeaning to me, and then tipped a quarter apiece. One of the cooks, Leon, gave me another perspective on Bob. When Leon had been hospitalized for a back injury, Bob was the best and the gentlest of the nurses who cared for him. "You wouldn't believe how loving and strong his hands are," Leon said.

The practical compassion and hard work required of a good nurse eventually blossomed into Bob's politics, and his store. Internationalist grew from a few hundred works, mostly Revolutionary Communist Party publications, to a bookstore that rivaled much larger and wealthier stores in the selection, diversity, and scope of its books. Bob spent innumerable hours finding just the book a customer needed. He loaned books to people who couldn't afford to buy them. He and Womancraft were the only stores in Chapel Hill to stock Ladyslipper's tapes and albums, and Internationalist was the only place I was sure had a copy of King's "I Have a Dream" speech when a friend needed it to play at an anti-Klan rally. Bob stocked splendid Third World crafts, political buttons, posters, t-shirts, Nicaraguan coffee — things that were hard to find, and wouldn't sell in quantity. The books I first saw at Internationalist included *Beyond Power*, *This Bridge Called My Back*, *Sister Outsider*, *Another Mother Tongue*, *My Mama's Dead Squirrel*, and many, many more.



Bob was a good friend to the Women's Book Exchange (WBE) from its beginning. Remembering him as evangelical "Commie Bob," I was at first doubtful of his motives in supporting a feminist library. As he continued to give us good advice on finding the books we wanted, I came to treasure his knowledge and his help.

In 1985, when WBE needed a new home, Bob and Marilyn Ghezzi offered us the unused back room at Internationalist for very low rent. They were the best landlords and neighbors WBE could have had, with great tolerance for our sometimes helter-skelter, all-volunteer ways. Bob, Marilyn, and other Internationalist folks kept an eye on WBE for the 38 hours a week that the store was open without a WBE volunteer present, and they were good company the five hours a week we could be there. In exchange, WBE people minded Internationalist one Saturday a month, giving Bob and Marilyn a rare day off together — or, I suspect, a day to work away from the demands of the store.

I'm sorry that I wasn't in better touch with Bob for the last two and a half years. The last time I saw him at Internationalist he was boxing up textbook returns — a complicated and tedious chore that he explained in detail, again sharing his knowledge with someone who'd soon need it. We swapped information about politics, organizing, books, publishers, our lives. It was a good, useful, enjoyable talk. Since then our conversations were limited to brief phone calls — "Do you have a copy of such-and-such? Do you know where I can get a 'Witches Heal' bumper sticker? Okay, thanks, gotta go —." We sent "hello"s through mutual friends, sent customers and colleagues to one another's store. Of course, I thought we'd have years to talk more, when we weren't so damned busy.

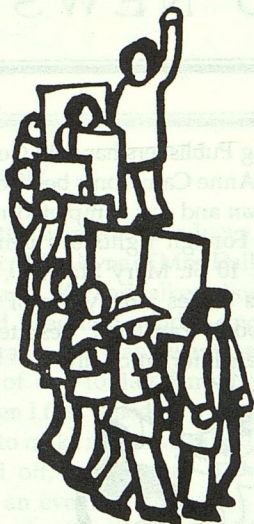
On Thursday night, February 21, 1991, Bob must have been ready to close up shop a little before nine o'clock; he had already put on his jacket and set his motorcycle helmet out in easy reach. Someone walked into Internationalist and shot Bob once, in the head, at close range. Bob's friend Ken found him a few minutes later. At first he thought Bob was playing some kind of bad joke, lying there like that. Ken called the police and an ambulance.

Bob regained just enough consciousness in the intensive care unit to hold Marilyn's hand. He died at about three a.m. Since Bob was an organ donor, his body was kept going by machines long enough for his parents to arrive from Colorado and sign the consent forms. Bob's final act of benevolence meant the hospital continued to list him as in critical condition for nearly twelve hours after his death. Friends who'd already heard he was dead were bewildered and frantically hopeful when they heard this conflicting report for most of the day Friday.



There were many tributes to Bob in the days following his death: a candlelight vigil at the store, a march through downtown Chapel Hill, a peace march

in Durham dedicated to him. His memorial service at the Community Church drew four hundred people. Many of us spent hours the next week calling each other for news — there was none — and talking to the press, who wrote batches of more or less accurate articles.



We still don't know who killed Bob, or why. Some people want to dismiss his murder as "just" drug related violence, as though fairly random killings have become acceptable to us if they're related to drugs, or happen near "drug neighborhoods" — poor, mostly African-American neighborhoods where many residents live in constant fear. It is insufferable that we should consider the poverty, oppression, and depression of such neighborhoods to be "just" anything, or such killings to be non-political. Perhaps Bob was killed by a thug who considered his own need for money more important than Bob's life. Perhaps the murderer was too frightened or angry or stoned to realize that Bob was not his enemy. If so, I still can't accept Bob's death as something like bad luck. Bob spent his life working against racism, economic exploitation, and ignorance. He knew that the violence of poor neighborhoods was neither coincidental nor inevitable.

I fear that Bob was shot by someone who hated Bob's stance as a Viet Nam era conscientious objector and current critic of the Gulf war. An interview with Bob on those subjects was broadcast on Channel 5 in January. That was the only public statement he'd

made recently that was different from what he'd done every day for years. The murderer could also have targeted Bob for his ongoing work against bigotry, sexism, or homophobia. He was shot in the head, where the ideas live, by someone in enough control of himself to leave no clues behind, no sign of a struggle or a hurried search through the store. He took time to carefully shut the difficult screen door behind him. He was seen or heard by no one except Bob. North Carolina has an ugly history of political murders and assassinations, sometimes as mob violence, sometimes as coolly and deliberately as this.

The war in the Persian Gulf is winding down now, and the chauvinism and self-righteousness it inspired is becoming quieter, but, as a friend of Arab descent reminds me, it is still there, it is always there. Whatever form it took, what killed Bob was stupidity, hatred, fear, and a cruel indifference to the lives and well-being of other people, people somehow characterized as different and therefore less human than oneself. I am heartbroken by our loss of so good a friend, for Bob's loss of what should have been many more wonderful years. I am also furious. I must, as Mother Jones said, pray for the dead and fight like hell for the living.

Time, money, and expertise are needed to keep Internationalist going without Bob. If you can give any of them, please contact the Internationalist Bookstore Committee, PO Box 951, Chapel Hill NC, 27514, or call Ashley Osment, 919-942-1740. If you can work against any of the forms of bigotry and ignorance that kill people daily, pick the cause closest to your heart and get involved.

I did not speak at Bob's memorial service; there were far too many of us for everyone to speak. I had dinner with dear friends afterward and was comforted by their presence, their happy baby, and their collection of vintage music, some that I knew from Internationalist. I listened to Holly Near sing: *It could have been me, but instead it was you / So I'll keep doing the work you were doing as if I were two...If you could live for freedom, I can too.*

Sleep well, Bob. Your courageous life inspired us. You always struggled to do the right thing, and we loved you for it. Come back soon. We miss you. And we, too, want justice. ○



BACK TO PRESS

AND OTHER GOOD NEWS

Back To Press

Thanks to great cooperation between booksellers and publishers, *Shadow on a Tighrope: Writings by Women on Fat Oppression* (published by Aunt Lute, edited by Lisa Schoenfelder and Barb Wieser) is not only back in print but also back to press. About 10,000 copies of this classic were sold before the book went out of print. Given the dearth of books on fat oppression written and published since, feminist booksellers encouraged Aunt Lute to bring *Shadow* back into print and then made it possible by ordering 10 books in advance and agreeing to pay within 30 days. "They made a commitment to spend the money to make it work," says Aunt Lute's Joan Pinkvoss. The reprint has sold out of its first 1,000 copies and is going back to press for a second run of 3,000.

Sister Vision Press in Toronto has just reissued Ahdri Zhina Mandiela's dub and conventional poetry book *Speshal Rikwes* with a brand new cover. The first run of 2,500 has sold out and the second run is about 1,700.

Press Gang Publishers tells us that *Not Vanishing* by Chrystos has gone back to press for a fourth time for a total of 9,000 books in print.

Three JoAnn Loulan titles from Spinsters Book Company have gone back to press. *Lesbian Erotic Dance* has gone back to press for a third printing, bringing the total copies to 15,000. *Lesbian Sex* and *Lesbian Passion* also are reprinting, for a total of 47,000 and 36,000 copies respectively. Another Spinsters' title, *Lesbians at Midlife*, has gone back to press after four months for a second printing. There are now 10,000 copies of that title in print.

Fair Oaks Publishing of Sunnyvale, CA has gone back to press with *How I Learned to Ride the Bicycle: Reflections of an Influential 19th Century Woman*, by Frances E. Willard. There are now 9,200 copies in print after a second printing of 5,200 of the trade paper edition.

Rights

Press Gang Publishers has sold German and Japanese rights to Anne Cameron's best-selling *Daughters of Copper Woman* and has completed negotiations for Dutch rights. Foreign rights are being handled by MGA Agency, 10 St. Mary St., #510, Toronto, ONT M4Y 1P9. This comes after years of the author not wanting this book translated, despite requests from many publishers internationally.



Naiad Press has sold foreign rights to Diane Salvatore's *Benediction* to Silvermoon in England and has sales pending in both Germany and Holland. Argument in Germany bought Deborah Powell's *Bayou City Secrets* as part of their mystery series, which now includes all mysteries by Katherine V. Forrest and Lauren Wright Douglas. Silvermoon and Daphne Verlag in Germany both have purchased rights to *I Left My Heart* by Jaye Maiman.

Spinsters Book Company has sold the German rights for Mary Morrell's *Final Session* and Diane McRae's *All The Muscle You Need* to Orlanda Frauenverlag.

Film

The film "Hot Summer Winds," based upon two short stories from Hisaye Yamamoto's award-winning

See *Back to Press*, page 56



CANADIAN CONTENT

By Donna Murray

This month I wanted to conduct a telephone interview with Janice McAltyne of Mrs. Dalloway's Books in Kingston, Ontario. We had talked about the possibility previously and I had it in mind to find out a bit about how the store ran, what if any were the difficulties, and other details of day-to-day feminist bookselling in Kingston. When I first called on a busy Saturday afternoon (hoping to make my inevitable deadline for FBN), Janice begged off, putting her customers first and arranging for an evening when both of us would be more at ease to chat. I called on the appointed evening and found myself talking naturally to a woman who is an enthusiast for the community, customers and Mrs. Dalloway's bookstore. I had expected to talk about the hardships we all face in the feminist book trade, but that seems to be my jaded point of view. Janice was sincere in her enthusiasm and it came across over the phone. This is a store I want to visit — I can tell I would feel at home and welcomed there.

Mrs. Dalloway's has been located, for about a year, in small (more about that later) premises above some stores where one would usually expect to find apartments. Their previous location having been redeveloped, co-owners Janice McAltyne and Donna Vittorio moved to a solid, limestone building with historical designation, and affordable rent, where they can expect to be "forever".

The store is owned and operated solely by the two women, who each have other part-time work on top of the demands of running a store five days a week. Each woman spends about half of the open hours working in the store. Some of their hours overlap to "get everything done". They each have widespread operational expertise, but for expediency, have split up the various tasks of bookkeeping, ordering,

handling mail, and staffing the store. They have considered the possibility of hiring further staff but have concluded that, on the one hand, "it would be so hard to train someone to make decisions" and, on the other hand, they would "hate to hire someone who would have to do just the tedious jobs."

At Mrs. Dalloway's, as in the case of "all" women's bookstores, "the things that you like about the store are the things that drive you crazy," Janice said. She likes being the centre of the community, and the resulting friends and acquaintances. But what happens is that "you will get to the store early to get a good start and people are there waiting to talk and so you spend the first half hour talking and having coffee." There go your good intentions. "It's balancing that with the invisible paper work. People don't realize what is entailed in getting books onto the shelves. You could be in the store and work steadily away." She speculated that stores with more employees may be able to distinguish between working "up front" and dividing up operational tasks.



When I asked if it were a question of "not enough time" Janice answered that when you work for someone else you know that there is always more work but somehow it doesn't matter so much. But when you are in business for yourself, "You can't quite get on top of it and you just get used to feeling that things are just a little out of control!"

The two women do their own bookkeeping with Janice having gleaned some experience by default in the University of British Columbia bookstore. She recalls

See Canadian Content, page 42

WRITING WANTED



HerBooks wants fiction, non-fiction, essays, poems, letters, cartoons, graphics and photographs by women for *Childless by Choice: A Multicultural Women's Anthology*. The editors say the work will be a feminist anthology that locates women's decisions not to have children within the context of our struggle for reproductive freedom and the right to self-determination. Contributions should be typed and not more than 20 pages. Send contributions and SASE to HerBooks, PO Box 7467, Santa Cruz, CA 95061. Deadline: December 1, 1991.

Venus Press is seeking single-panel cartoons, strips and cartoon stories for *New Dyke*, an anthology of cartoons by, for and about lesbians. Send cartoons and SASE to Venus Press, 7100 Blvd. East, Guttenberg, NJ 07093. Deadline: December 1, 1991.

Third Side Press is looking for essays, interviews and stories for *The Woman-Centered Economy: Ideals, Reality, and the Space In-Between*, a book that will explore the relationship between feminist women (and organizations) and the money we need to keep alive. Women interested in discussing their contributions before writing them or sending them in should call Loraine Edwalds at 312-784-6725. Send typed manuscripts with SASE to Edwalds at Third Side Press, 2250 W. Farragut, Chicago, IL 60625. Deadline: August 10, 1991.



Stories, personal accounts and poems are wanted for an anthology of writings by women on sexuality in midlife and beyond. Editors Dena Taylor and Amber Coverdale Sumrall will consider previously published work. The anthology will be published by The Crossing Press. Send submissions with SASE to Taylor/Sumrall, PO Box 334, Capitola, CA 95010. Deadline: December 15, 1991.

Short Fiction By Women, a new magazine publishing literature by women, needs short stories, novellas and novel excerpts. Payment will be based on length and funds available. The magazine will own first serial rights only. Send one typed, double-spaced manuscript and SASE to Rachel Whalen, Editor, *Short Fiction By Women*, PO Box 1276, Stuyvesant Station, New York, NY 10009. The first issue will be published in Fall 1991, and three times a year thereafter. Subscriptions are \$18/year.



Writing is wanted for two anthologies, one on women in extreme situations in the outdoors, the second on lesbians in sports or the experience of being a lesbian athlete. Send history, theory or personal stories with SASE to Susan Rogers, PO Box 23, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY 12504.

Cover 2 Cover Publications in the U.K. will launch a new science fiction/fantasy magazine this autumn and is now looking for short stories, poetry and artwork from established writers and newcomers. Send typed manuscripts, no more than 6,000 words, and color or black-and-white artwork with SASE to Charlie Rigby, Cover 2 Cover Publications, Tailby House, Bath Road/Digby Street, Kettering, Northants NN168NI.

Book Festival

The Third Annual Southern Festival of Books, sponsored by the Tennessee Humanities Council, will be October 11-13 in Nashville TN. For more information, contact the Tennessee Humanities Council, PO Box 24767, Nashville, TN 37202; phone 615-320-7001. Featured authors include Rita Mae Brown and Elizabeth Fox-Genovese. - AM O

But Can She Type?

Unafraid of the "F" Word

By Nett Hart

I do not assume all feminists are Lesbian nor even that all women concerned with feminist bookmaking and selling are Lesbians. For the moment, though, I am specifically addressing all of us Lesbian-feminists for whom neither side of the hyphen is true without the other.

Have you noticed an increase in Lesbian popularity at the same time there is a decrease in feminist popularity? Do more lesbians in your community show up for Gay Pride than International Women's Day? Is the major news and event resource in your community a gay-lesbian-bisexual newspaper rather than the feminist newspaper that folded a few years back? Something is going on.

Every Lesbian book, event, artifact is a celebration of Lesbian visibility. Lately, Lesbians, along with their gay "brothers", and bi-sexual activists have been showing up on prime time, movies, and books, books, books. There is a lot of queer activism and queer organization. There are queer characters and queer sensibilities everywhere you look lately. We are everywhere. But are "we" feminist?

The corollary is also true, of course, that not all Lesbians are feminists, so why would we expect all this new Lesbian visibility to be? This is, after all, Equal Opportunity Visibility wherein Lesbians can be portrayed as sleuths, victims or murderers with equanimity. Lesbians can be activists, godmothers, soldiers, and republicans. This visibility, the queer movement, is a mainstream recognition. Not only do books have queer stories, they get Big Time reviews. Not only do queers get respect as consumers, we've become a "market." This visibility, the visibility accorded to the lesbian third of the queer movement/market, is at the cost of our radical feminist politics. Did anybody notice?

Lesbian feminists have been promoting a radical political agenda for about 25 years. This agenda resists reduction to a single issue. It challenges not only our marginalization as women and as Lesbians in the system, but the very existence of The System. The



Sudie Rakusin, *Dreams and Shadows*

forces that marginalize us as Lesbians are multiple. Every visible Lesbian is not our victory. Every lesbian book is not our book. There is a trendiness to this new queer movement that ridicules Lesbian-feminist standards such as comfortable clothes, consensus and collective decision-making, politics over entertainment, consciousness about privilege and access, equal and honest relationships and then lumps them all together

into "political" correctness" which anyone who is anyone knows is passe. Any call to responsibility to the ideals we embraced in the 70s is now viewed as heavy-handed, a drag (ironic, eh?) and guilt-driven. Any attempt to live simply, communally, consciously is laughable downward mobility as though the ones laughing had done any analysis on class or its intersection with other oppressions. In adding Lesbians' energy and good reputation to the queer movement we have severed alliances with het women we could more easily challenge on their heterosexism than we can challenge queer "brothers and sisters" on sexism, classism, and all other dominations.



From *International Lesbian Information Service Newsletter*, Vol.11 No.2, 1991.

I do not ask of us once again to rank our oppressions — sexism over homophobia — because to do so ignores the multiplicity of oppressions Lesbians face. Feminism is about opposing all forms of domination: sexism, heterosexism, racism, anti-Semitism, classism, ageism, ableism, sadism, imperialism, looksism and specieism. To highlight only oppression based on sexuality is to ignore the oppressions most dykes experience. This focus on "sexual preference" aligns Lesbians with status quo politics and betrays our sisterhood.

So, now, whether you are one Lesbian-feminist among many or the token Lesbian-feminist in either an otherwise heterosexual feminist or non-feminist queer group, it is your responsibility to hold these words together by their hyphen. There's a queer movement out there that is only one side of that little line. If we forget the other end of that hyphen, we betray everything we have learned about loving women. ○

Canadian Content, continued from page 39.

that she would have preferred to be upstairs selling books, but that the experience has since become invaluable. She also took an introductory "How to Start A Small Business" course at a community college where an enthusiastic and thorough instructor made it possible for her to be able to "muddle through the books well enough to send them to an accountant at year end."

The store operates Tuesday through Saturday, with a two-day hiatus that Janice calls "a quality-of-life decision." When asked if the store took over their whole lives, she responded with a definite "No!" But she added that it was frustrating in the beginning when people would ask if she had read everything in the store — she now realizes that this is an impossible dream and desire.

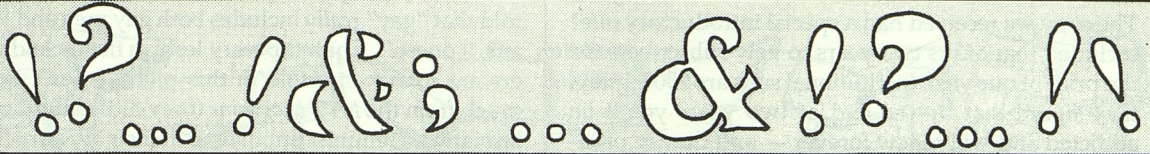
In general, Mrs. Dalloway's runs smoothly. "Things are rosy, it's good" said Janice. "But, you'd hate to think you'd have to keep going at this pace until you were 65." And at that she posed a question for all of the stores, "What about our future? Are any of us even thinking long range?"

A second question then arose regarding stock selection and the processes for other bookstores rotating their inventory: "We've got a very small space. Decisions we make about what goes and what stays are life-blood selections." What do other stores do in making those choices? How do you choose?

These questions offer food for thought and opportunity for input. For all of you decision makers out there, what do you do to maintain currency, and customer interest while moving slow stock, and accommodating the wide array of available titles?

This column is open for input from all of the Canadian feminist bookstores, (and any other store who may have comments relating to the above column) and if you don't recall, was set up with the intention of having a cross-country flavour. If you have suggestions, or topics for further development, and, of course, if you want to contribute to future Canadian Content columns, contact me, Donna Murray, at 1883 Neil Street, Victoria, B.C. V8R 3C6, phone (604) 598-9634. Better yet, if you are interested in editing this column, volunteer now, since I am getting ready to retire from this aspect of contribution. ○

TRIVIA

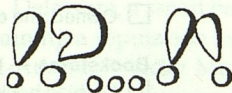


By Carol Seajay

Yes, *of course*, (to use the Grier vernacular) *Redbook* Senior Editor Diane Salvatore is Diane Salvatore, author of *Benediction*.

You may not be reading *Family Circle* on a weekly basis, but *Period*, the all-time feminist favorite book on menstruation for teens and pre-teens, got quite a nice write-up in *FC's* Kidbits column in the July 23 edition along with a number of tips on talking to one's daughter about menstruation. Published by Volcano Press and available from most distributors.

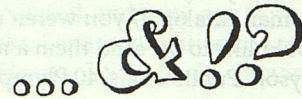
Banned Books Week is September 28 to October 5. The theme is "celebrating the freedom of expression over efforts to censor and ban all manner of literary works." Free materials, including posters, sourcebook, print ads and more are available from the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression. Free to ABA member stores on request. \$20 to non-members. I haven't seen this year's package. Feminist booksellers, as I recall, didn't find last year's poster, etc. to be terribly useful. Write to ABFFE, 137 W. 25th St., NY NY 10001.



Highlights from the 1991 Trends Seminar hosted by *Publishers Weekly* and the Book Industry Study Group: "Smaller and more frequent ordering (a mainstay of feminist bookstores since their inception) is here to stay. Inventory turn is everything." "[The] multiplicity of titles would become even more of the rule over the mega sellers." "Personal handselling is and will continue to be 'the be all and end all of bookselling.'" "General reference and ethnic/multi-cultural titles are among the fastest growing segments of the publishing industry..."

It almost sounds like the industry is catching up to feminist bookselling and publishing standards, eh? Quotes and info from *Newswire*.

According to the Commerce Department, bookstore sales for the first three months of 1991 were up 7.4% over the same period last year. General retail stores dropped 0.3% during the same period. Stationery stores dropped 17.5%, radio and television stores dropped 4.7%. Maybe books are recession-proof after all — or at least recession-resistant. (Thanks again to *Newswire* for the stats & quotes.)



The ABA's *A Manual on Bookselling: How to Open and Run a Bookstore* is available again. If you haven't already read it, get it! If you haven't ordered a new copy for a few editions, order it and scan the updates. \$10. *ABACUS Expanded: ABA's Financial Survey of Member Bookstores Based on 1989 Operations* contains results based on data submitted by 175 ABA-member independent booksellers. It includes information published in the December 1990 issue of *American Bookseller* as well as more information on different sales volume levels, business types, profitability groupings, geographic regions and sales in specialty stores vs. general bookstores. \$20. prepaid. Order from ABA Publications Department, 137 W. 25th St. NY NY 10001.

Speaking of essential tools, I don't know where I've been but I just got my hands on a copy of the *ABBWA Journal: The Trade Publication of the Black Book Industry* published by the American Black Book Writers Association. The issue I saw was 40 pages, including a 20-page Second Annual Black Book Guide that listed books published over the last year or so, including some titles I hadn't heard of (such as *Black Women*

and Television, \$20, Garland Press), and a number of interesting pieces scattered through various columns. ABBWA's Fall/Winter issue will feature novels by Black authors and related works. Subs are \$30/year. The copy we received had a special introductory offer included that offers two years to new subscribers for the price of one year. Institutional subs are \$50. I guess they figure that by the end of two years you'll be addicted and will renew forever — and they're probably right. Published quarterly. ABBWA Journal, PO Box 10548, Marina del Rey, CA 90295.

Alyson Press has begun publishing books on recycled paper. The first two titles are *Dykescapes* and *Certain Voices*, both released in June. Now that Alyson Publications has turned their distribution over to InBook, they're shifting some of that packing-and-shipping energy to distribution. New projects include window display posters for *Brother to Brother* and *Gloria Goes to Gay Pride*. They're 16" x 20" and mounted on foamcore. If you didn't receive copies and want them, write to Alyson. Alyson is also updating the list of stores that carry Alyson's books that they publish in their direct-mail catalog. If you weren't on last year's list and would like to be, send them a note and ask to be on it. Alyson Publications, 40 Plympton St., Boston MA 02118.

Hey! Did you see the *NYT Magazine* piece on the emergence of gay literature? ("Out of the Closet, Onto the Bookshelf" by Edmund White, June 16, 1991) What was that? Exactly. No matter how many times you're told that "gay" really includes both gay men and lesbians, it doesn't. Contemporary lesbian fiction and writers are totally invisible in this piece. I don't expect much from the *NYT Magazine* (they did, after all cover lesbian and feminist publishing in their 1977 article on Daughters Press, right?), but it certainly would have been appropriate for White to have included mention that the emergence of lesbian literature (no thanks to the *NYT*) preceeded the growth in gay men's literature by about ten years and that the success of the former had a considerable amount to do with the development of the latter. It's things like this that keep me a rabid feminist..

But you can't keep a good woman down: Jan Hardy writes, regarding the hassles getting *Wanting Women: An Anthology of Erotic Lesbian Poetry* printed: "As for the difficulties in getting into print, I think, on looking back over the whole process, BookCrafters' weirdness just made me all the more determined to get this book into print. Now I feel our words are more powerful than ever!"

And I guess that about sums it up. ○

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- Reader/Bibliophile
- Women's Studies Teacher
- Librarian
- Writer
- Bookseller
- Publisher
- Periodical
- Craftswoman
- Other _____

Bookstores, Publishers and Periodicals — Is your focus primarily:

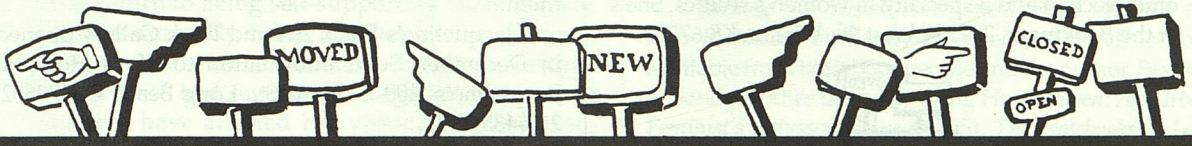
- Feminist
- Lesbian
- Lesbian & Gay
- Gay
- Alternative/political
- General independent

- Owned and operated by women
- Co-owned and run by women and men
- Owned and operated by men

Bookstores — We also stock:

- Lesbian books
- Feminist non-fiction
- Gay men's titles
- General interest
- Leftist/political
- New age/metaphysical
- Children
- Other _____
- Back issues available — \$6 each or \$30/year. Check enclosed.

THEY WENT THAT-A-WAY



Compiled by Carol Seajay

New Stores

The Closet Bookstore opened on May 1 to serve the lesbian, gay, and feminist communities of Lancaster PA. Nancy Helm offers the energy and vision behind the store — and is the one to sustain the store through the recent homophobia-induced bombing. (See Short Stories). The Closet is also the headquarters for the Pink Triangle coalition, an activist group fighting for gay & lesbian rights. The Closet is at 25 N. Prince, Lancaster PA 17603. 717-399-8818.

Our Voices: A Women's Bookstore & Gathering Place will open in Columbus in September. The store will stock feminist, lesbian and some gay men's titles. I'm not sure if the address I have is their store address or home address, but if you direct mail to Stacey Tucker at 21 E. Lincoln St. in Columbus OH 43215, it will get to the right place eventually.



Lambda Rising has opened a new store in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, a small beach resort community that is gaining a reputation as the "Provincetown of the Mid-Atlantic." Vicky Morelli is the store manager. She's assisted by Yvonne "Babo" Janssen and Brian Bean. The store will be open seven days a week from 10 am to midnight during the summer months with shorter winter hours. It will concentrate on "beach reading," sidelines and beach-oriented gift items: t-shirts, lambda-adorned Frisbees and rainbow flags. "Local" Lesbian novelist Sarah Aldridge performed ribbon-cutting duties at the grand opening. Despite the huge influx of lesbian and gay tourists during the summer months, Rehoboth is a very conservative community heavily influenced by

fundamentalist religions. The opening of a gay and lesbian bookstore is expected to create quite a stir. This is the third store in the Lambda Rising chain. The combined sales of the Washington DC and Baltimore MD stores are reported to be \$1.9 million. The new store is at 29 Baltimore Ave., Rehoboth DL 19971. 302-227-6969.



Recovering Hearts stocks feminist, gay, lesbian, alternative, political and new-age books as well as recovery books. Send information to Leslie McGrath, Recovering Hearts, 4 Standis St., Provincetown MA 02657.

Carole Shane is planning to open a women's bookstore in Boulder and is looking for a partner. The store will be called Ambrosia: Books and Treasures for Women. Write to her at 4396 Snowberry Ct., Boulder CO 80304. 303-440-4146.

Diana Daigle is planning to open a women's bookstore in Baton Rouge. Send information to her at 8730 Lochness, Baton Rouge LA 70808.

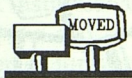
Honora Goldstein is starting a feminist bookstore and would like to receive information. Write to her c/o PO Box 281, Brewster MA 02631.

Wayne Cope's new store in Gainesville will be called Plurality Books & Things. Send information to him at Rt. 2 Box 913, Micanopy FL. The *correct* zip code (as opposed to the one we ran last issue) is 32667. He plans to open in August.

Y.C. Thompson is planning to open a bookstore to be called Our Mothers Garden in Sylmar CA. The store will stock feminist, lesbian, gay, alternative, political and general titles. For the time being, send information to Our Mothers Garden c/o 13825 Beaver St. #26, Sylmar CA 91342.

Catherine Lundoff is hoping to start a bookstore in Iowa City. Send information to her at 520 S. Capitol, Iowa City IA 52240.

Rochelle Wilson runs a used bookstore with a general selection and a specialty in women's studies. She's at the Bookmark, 2073 N. West St., Wichita KS 67203.



Widdershins is a new woman-owned, woman-run business dedicated to the preservation and collection of women's history. They specialize in out of print and rare material of interest to women. They plan to offer materials through lists and catalogs, and to act as a book-search service for individuals and other bookstores. "Our belief is that when a woman knows her history, or the heritage of her people, she is stronger to move forward." Send information to Brooks Nelson and Katherine Sadler, Widdershins, 8205 Santa Monica Blvd, Ste. 1-232, West Hollywood CA 90046. 213-656-3482.

Revolution: Ideas for the 21st Century plans to open in September at 2433 Main St., Santa Monica CA 90405. (In the meantime, send information to Gail Stevenson, 1100 Glendon Ave. #1719, Los Angeles CA 90024. 213-473-5260.) Revolution's goal is "to offer titles by both female and male authors to appeal to men as well as women by creating an atmosphere where all people may co-exist cooperatively." They will specialize in ecology-related titles and stock an extensive fiction section featuring feminist literature as well as general classic contemporary literature, as well as providing a "kids revolution" section offering fiction carefully selected for non-aggressive content and non-stereotypical sex roles. Their non-fiction will include state-of-the-art interactive computer software — which they believe to be the technology of learning in the 21st century. Revolution also houses a psychological clinic, and a coffeehouse.

More African-American Bookstores

African-American bookstores aren't new — what's new is the attention they are finally receiving in the book industry. With more visibility, and some specific programs, more African-American booksellers are attending ABA. Below are names and addresses of three stores that met at ABA whose addresses we haven't previously run.

Presumably ABA is developing a list of African-American bookstores for publishers who have books they need to promote to these stores. In the meantime, we'll continue running addresses as we receive them.

Jacqueline's Black Art and Book Gallery opened in December. Send information to Mary Howard. Jacqueline's, 400 E. Third St., Long Beach CA 90802. 213-435-8922.

First World Bookstore is, if my memory serves me right, a four-store chain. Send information to Nia Damahi. First World Bookstore, 677 1/2 Cascade Ave. SW, Atlanta GA 30310. 404-758-7124.

In New Jersey, it's Bridges Book Center, 1480 Main St., Rahway, NJ 07065.

It seems to me that feminist bookstores and African-American bookstores have a lot in common — being specialty bookstores serving populations that experience severe discrimination. I'm interested in exploring concrete ways we can help each other.

New Names

Half the Sky in Mankato, Minnesota has changed its name to Our Mothers' Gardens. It is still at 417 Byron St., 56001. Kim Luedtke is the only one of the three founding mothers still involved with the shop. Her new partner is Maureen Sholly. They are also life partners and would like to hear from other couples who run bookstores about how they manage to balance working and living together.



Moved

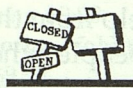
Attic Press has moved to 4 Upper Mount St., Dublin 2, Ireland. Their new phone number is 01-616128. The new fax number is 353-1-616176.

Vancouver's Ariel Books has moved to a new, larger, and lovelier location. New address is 1988 W. 4th St., just 8 blocks up from the old store.

For Sale

Mystic Moon, the New Orleans feminist bookstore is for sale. If no buyer is found, the store will

close at the end of August when the lease runs out. Barbara and Tahnya believe that if someone could increase the stock, invest some time and money in doing more out-reach and advertising, the store could return to being self-supporting fairly quickly. They are currently being affected by the recession which is slow to leave Louisiana. Tahnya, who staffs the store, has had several eye surgeries over the last year that have affected her vision. They will continue to do mail order whether the store sells or not. After they leave (or close) the store they can be reached at PO Box 24042, New Orleans LA 70184. Anyone interested in buying the store can call Barbara or Tahnya at 504-831-2483.



Closing

The word is that Common Concerns, DC's large lefty/political store is closing at the end of the month due to being financially over extended. There's also rumor that there are already plans afoot to open a new store serving the same clientele in the same location. When we hear anything concrete we'll pass the word on.

Ceased

Word is that *Outweek*, NYC's slick gay weekly, ceased publishing in early July due to financial difficulties and internal disagreements. *Outweek* was noted for its consistent attempts to be lesbian-inclusive, for its pro-activist stance, for refusing to run lucrative alcohol ads as part of their activist, pro-safe sex stance, for their wonderful fury about AIDS, as well as for advocating and practicing "outing" of closeted gay people who either failed to use their power and influence to aid the gay rights movement or who used their positions to overtly harm gay causes. Circulation is reported to have been between 30,000 and 40,000. The magazine and its many voices will be sorely missed. I trust they will re-emerge in other venues.

Address Correction

The correct address for ordering *Women Outdoors: The Best 1900 Books, Programs, and Periodicals* described on page 101 of 13:6 is c/o Jennifer Abromowitz, R.D. 1, 345 C, Williamsburg MA 01096.

Books Get Around, Too

Bookslinger informed us at ABA that they stock all of the Feminist Press titles. They're at 482 Michigan St., St. Paul MN 55114. 800-397-2613.

Turning the Wheel: American Women Creating the New Buddhism by Sandy Boucher (\$16.95 cl) is now available from both Bookpeople and the author. Several of Sandy's other titles including *Heartwomen: An Urban Feminist's Odyssey Home* (\$7.95), *The Notebooks of Leni Clare* (which includes one of my all-time favorite feminist bookstore scenes, \$6.95), and *Assaults & Rituals* (\$2.50) are available directly from Sandy at 3826 Cerrito Ave., Oakland CA 94611. Standard bookstore discount.

Pandora Press (U.K.) titles are distributed in the U.S. by HarperSanFrancisco. Pandora is currently one of four imprints of Thorsons — look for Thorsons' lavender type on grey paper catalog.

Down There Press has co-published, with Red Alder Books, the new edition of *Erotic by Nature: A Celebration of Life, of Love, and of Our Wonderful Bodies*, edited by David Steinberg. Being co-published by Down There Press apparently earned it entry into Inland's Spring WomanSource Catalog, raising a number of eyebrows and questions about what is meant by "WomanSource," what assumptions are made about content, and what publishers and books are eligible for inclusion and what is excluded.

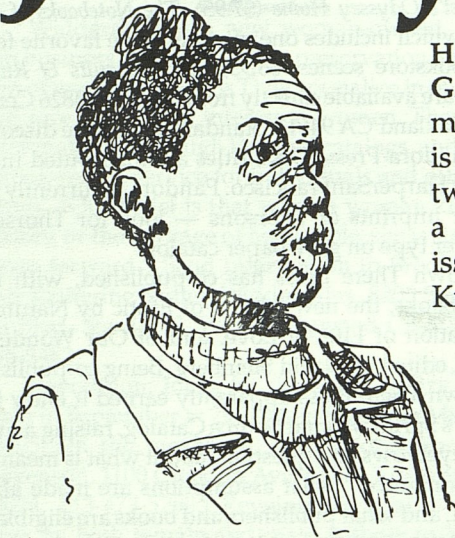


Real Comet Press, for sale for the last two years, has ceased publishing new titles but will keep the backlist titles in print as long as possible. Real Comet published Lynda Barry's first books (*Girls + Boys*; *Big Ideas*; *Naked Ladies*, *Naked Ladies*; and *The Good Times* are *Killing Me* as well as *The Female Gaze: Women as Viewers of Popular Culture* and *Caught Looking: Feminism, Pornography and Censorship*. Rights to many of the backlist titles are for sale. For more information contact Catherine Hillenbrand at Real Comet's new address, 1463 E. Republican St. #126, Seattle WA 98112. 206-328-1801. Backlist titles are now available only through Inland, Real Comet's new distributor.

Womontyme Distribution is now distributing all books by Barbara Dewey including, *As You Believe*, *The Creating Cosmos*, and *The Theory of Laminated Spacetime*. Womontyme's toll-free number is 800-247-8903.

— CS ○

Just for Kids



HOW WOULD YOU FEEL IF YOUR DAD WAS GAY? by Ann Heron and Meredith Maran. \$9.95. Jasmine doesn't care if her whole class knows that her dad is gay — but her brother does care. Their story, told by two lesbian mothers with help from their sons, will be a lifeline for other young people who face the same issues. Illustrated with the lively drawings of cartoonist Kris Kovick. Hardcover.

OTHER NEW TITLES

GLORIA GOES TO GAY PRIDE, by Lesléa Newman; illustrated by Russell Crocker. \$7.95. New from the author of *Heather Has Two Mommies*. Paperback.

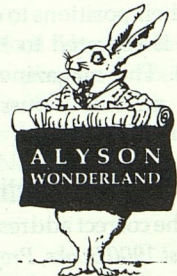
FAMILIES: A Coloring Book, by Michael Willhoite. \$2.95. All sorts of families are depicted by this Lammy-winning illustrator. Paperback.



ALYSON WONDERLAND

Books about kids with lesbian and gay parents

To order: Alyson titles are distributed by InBook. Order toll-free: 1-800-253-3605. Also available from Inland, Bookpeople, and other wholesalers.



BESTSELLERS

ClaireLight

Santa Rosa, CA

May, 1991

- 1 **The Lesbian Erotic Dance**, J. Loulan, Spinsters Book Co., \$12.95.
- 2 **Places of Interest to Women**, M. Ferrari, ed., Ferrari Publications, \$9.00.
- 3 **Lesbian Love Stories: Volume 2**, I. Zahava, ed., Crossing Press, \$9.95.
- 4 **Touchwood**, K. Kallmaker, Naiad Press, \$8.95.
- 5 **The Beverley Malibu**, K. Forrest, Naiad Press, \$9.95.
- 6 **Cop Out**, C. McNab, Naiad Press, \$8.95.
- 7 **Lesbian Sex**, J. Loulan, Spinsters/Aunt Lute, \$10.95.
- 8 **Lesbians at Midlife**, B. Sang, et al., eds., Spinsters Book Co., \$12.95.
- 9 **Lesbian Passion**, J. Loulan, Spinsters/Aunt Lute, \$11.95.
- 10 **Heart of the Goddess**, H. I. Austen, Wingbow Press, \$24.95.

April, 1991

- 1 **Cop Out**
- 2 **The Beverly Malibu**
- 3 **The Woman's Book of Courage**, S. P. Thoele, Conari Press, \$7.95.
- 4 **The Bean Trees**, B. Kingsolver, Harper & Row, \$9.95.
- 5 **All I Need to Know I Learned From My Cat**, S. Becker, Workman Publishing, \$5.95.
- 6 **Different Mothers**, L. Rafkin, ed., Cleis Press, \$9.95.
- 7 **Everybody Needs a Rock**, B. Baylor, Macmillan Publishing Co., \$4.95.
- 8 **Georgia O'Keeffe: 100 Flowers Gift Edition**, Alfred A. Knopf, \$8.95.
- 9 **Places of Interest to Women**
- 10 **Death By the Riverside**, J. Redmann, New Victoria Publishers, \$8.95.

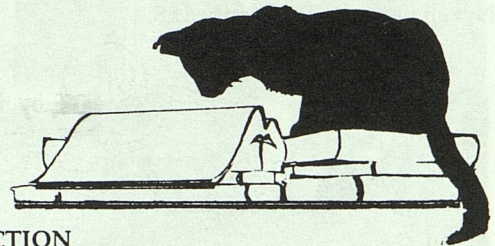
Silver Moon*

London

May 1991

LESBIAN

- That Old Studebaker**, Lee Lynch, £6.95.
The Providence File, Amanda Kyle Williams, £5.95.
Passion's Legacy, Lori A. Paige, £5.95.
Lesbian Love Stories, Volume 2, £6.95.
Vital Lies, Ellen Hart, £6.95.
Sudden Summer, Gilda Harrington, £5.95.
Cody Angel, Joanne Whitfield, £5.95.
The Woman with Red Hair, Sigrid Brunel, £5.95.
Just Say Yes, Judith McDaniel, £5.95.
Lodestar, Phyllis Horn, £5.95.
Lesbian Love Signs, An Astrological Guide for Women Loving Women, £5.95.



FICTION

- The Witching Hour**, Anne Rice, cl £14.99.
Then Again, Jenny Diski, £4.99.
Gwendolen, Buchi Emecheta, £4.99.
Dirty Week-End, Helen Zahavi, cl £13.99.
Lucy, Jamaica Kincaid, cl £12.99.
Don't Leave Me This Way, Joan Smith, £3.99.
The Battle for Christabel, Margaret Forster, cl £13.99.
Darcy's Utopia, Fay Weldon, £3.99.
The Doris Lessing Reader, £6.99.
The Blood of Roses, Tanith Lee, £5.99.
Agrippina, Claire Bretecher, £6.99.
F Is For Fugitive, Sue Grafton, £4.50.
Under A Glass Bell, Anais Nin, £4.99.

NON FICTION

- Sexual Anarchy, Gender and Culture At the Fin de Siecle**, Elaine Showalter, cl £15.99.
Women Under the Knife: A History of Surgery, Ann Dally, cl £18.99.
Hidden From History: Reclaiming the Gay and Lesbian Past, eds Martin Duberman, Martha Vicinus & George Chauncey, Jr, £8.99.
West Indian Women at War: British Racism in World War II, £9.99.
The Way We Live Now, Susan Sontag & Howard Hodgkin, £12.99.
Male Fantasies, Klaus Theweleit, £11.50.
The Worst Years of Our Lives: Irrelevant Notes From a Decade of Greed, Barbara Ehrenreich, cl £14.99.

- Colette**, Herbert Lottman, cl £17.99.
The Development of the Personality: Seminars in Psychological Astrology, Liz Greene and Howard Sasportas, £6.99.
Gender, Power and Sexuality, eds Pamela Abbott and Claire Wallace, £14.99.
Louise Brooks, Barry Paris, £7.99.
Lesbians At Midlife: The Creative Transition, eds Barbara Sang, Joyce Warshaw & Adrienne J. Smith, £9.95.

* Not all titles available in the U.S.



A Room Of One's Own

Madison, WI
 May, 1991

- G Is For Gumshoe**, Sue Grafton, Fawcett, \$5.95.
Meditations For Women Who Do Too Much, Anne Wilson Schaefer, Harper, \$9.95.
Art of the Possible, Dawna Markova, Conari Press, \$12.95.
Courage to Heal, Ellen Bass, Harper, \$18.95.
Food & Spirits, Beth Brant, Firebrand, \$8.95.
Joy Luck Club, Amy Tan, Ivy, \$5.95.
Beverly Malibu, Katherine Forrest, Naiad, \$9.95.
Cop Out, Claire McNab, Naiad, \$8.95.

- Making Face, Making Soul**, Gloria Anzaldua, Spinsters, \$14.95.
New Our Bodies Ourselves, Boston Women's Health Collective, \$17.95.
Catwings, Ursula Le Guin, Scholastic, \$2.50.
Dream On, Chrystos, Press Gang, \$10.95.
On the Path, Nancy W., Harper, \$8.95.
Women's Glib, Rosalind Warren, Crossing, \$10.95.
Feminist Ethics, Claudia Card, UKS, \$14.95.
Lesbian Erotic Dance, Joann Loulan, Spinsters, \$12.95.
Vital Lies, Ellen Hart, Seal Press, \$9.95.
Worst Years of Our Lives, Barbara Ehrenreich, Harper, \$9.95.
Bayou City Secrets, Deborah Powell, Naiad, \$8.95. ○

Bold Print

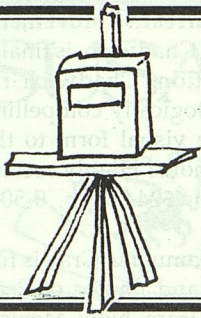
Winnipeg, Manitoba
 May 1991

NON FICTION

- 1 **Don't**, Elly Danica
- 2 **The Courage to Heal**, Ellen Bass and Laura Davis
- 3 **Living the Changes**, ed. Joan Turner
- 4 **Outgrowing the Pain**, Eliana Gil
- 5 **Healing Voices**, Toni Ann Laidlaw, Cheryl Malmo and Associates
- 6 **Thirteen Steps**, Bonita Swan
- 7 **The Chalice and the Blade**, Riane Eisler
- 8 **The Courage to Heal Workbook**, Laura Davis
- 9 **Kiss Daddy Goodnight: Ten Years Later**, Louise Armstrong
- 10 **The Dance of Anger**, Harriet Goldhor Lerner

FICTION

- 1 **In Search of April Raintree**, Beatrice Culleton
- 2 **Writing the Circle**, eds. Jeanne Perreault & Sylvia Vance
- 3 **My Mother Is So Unusual**, Iris Loewen
- 4 **A Friend Called Chum**, Bernelda Wheeler
- 5 **Lesbian Bedtime Stories II**, Terry Woodrow
- 6 **Joy Luck Club**, Amy Tan
- 7 **Dream On**, Chrystos
- 8 **Beverly Malibu**, Katherine V. Forrest
- 9 **Not Vanishing**, Chrystos
- 10 **Where Did You Get Your Moccasins?**, Bernelda Wheeler ○



ART BOOKS

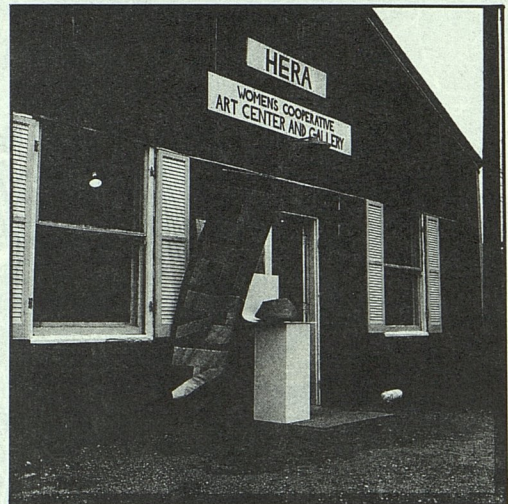
By Tee A. Corinne

What a pleasure it was to see many of you at ABA, and what a riot of books and people that was! My head is still spinning.

Drawing the Line: Lesbian Sexual Politics on the Wall by Kiss and Tell, is a book made up of 40 postcards that you can remove or leave in place. The images come from a show of the same name and are about where you draw the censoring line in lesbian sexual images. The images range from kissing/embracing and oral sex at the front, through biting, bathroom sex, flagellation, genital and anal exhibitionism, violent coercion, male voyeurs, and bondage and are modeled by the same couple throughout. Graphically striking and beautifully produced, the pictures disturb me by their dispassionate staginess. As an adult who was battered as a child, I also recoil from the whip images and had problems looking at the book long enough to review it. What is so unsettling here and in the recently released *Love Bites* by Della Grace (GMP, Alyson), is that the portrayals of lesbian sexuality which are being marketed are so lacking in intimacy. It is as if love, tenderness and caring are being censored most strongly despite the rhetoric to the contrary. Interestingly, the removable postcard form of the book allows the viewer to personalize it by removing images they don't like. Press Gang, distributed by IN, BP and others including University of Toronto Press in Canada, \$12.95 pb, 0-88974-030-5.

The History of Hera: A Women's Art Cooperative, 1974-1989 by Valerie Raleigh Yow is a fascinating study of a group of rural Rhode Island women who gathered to support each other and gain visibility within their own community and in the larger world. Hera Educational Foundation, distributed by IN, \$12.95 pb, 0-9625352-0-6.

Breaking the Frame: Film Language and the Experience of Limits by Inez Hedges explores a variety of approaches to film including feminist theory, cognitive psychology, aesthetics, and psychoanalysis, in a clear and interesting way. Indiana University Press, \$12.50 pb, 0-253-20621-9; \$29.95 cl, -32722-9.



The gallery, 1982. (photo: Judy Gelles)

The Arts and Crafts Movement by Elizabeth Cumming and Wendy Kaplan documents the anti-industrial design movement which began in England at the end of the 19th century. Women were active throughout and some are illustrated and discussed in this book. Thames and Hudson, \$12.95 pb, 0-500-20248-6.

Before I move on to the increasingly pricey publications, I want to mention **Kalliope: A Journal of Women's Art** which is doing a fine job of bringing the work of women artists to a wider public. Three issues a year. Kalliope, FCCJ, 3939 Roosevelt Blvd, Jacksonville, FL 32205, single copy \$7, distributed by Ingram Periodicals.

Women Engravers by Patricia Jaffe is an eye catching study of work done in this century, much of it for book illustrations. Virago, distributed by Trafalgar Square, N. Pomfret, VT 05053, \$22.95 pb, 1-85381-188-2, 1 at 20%, 2-4 at 30% and 5+ at 40%.



Cynthia by Lettice Sanford, **Women Engravers**.

Alma Lavenson: Photographs by Susan Ehrens is about the photos of a California photographer (1897-1989) who worked quietly for years in a manner similar to Imogen Cunningham. These images are startling in their clarity and in the strength of their design. Wildwood Arts, PO Box 1426 Berkeley, CA 94704, distributed by University of New Mexico Press, \$25 pb, 0-8263-1238-1; \$45 cl, -1237-3.

Women Artists and the Surrealist Movement, the definitive study by Whitney Chadwich, is finally available in a paperback edition. Chadwich rewrites women into the psychologically compelling movement which tried to give visual form to the sub-conscious and the unconscious. Highly recommended. Thames and Hudson, \$24.95 pb, 0-500-27622-6.

Tonita Peña: Quah Ah by Samuel L. Gray is full of watercolors and pottery by and photos of Peña (1893-1949), a Pueblo Indian from New Mexico. Most of the paintings are of Native American dances and ceremonies. The text is an honest and loving collection of oral histories. May be hard to sell at this price. Avanyu Publishing Inc., distributed by University of New Mexico Press, \$29.95 pb, 0-936755-17-2; \$39.95 cl, -08-3.

Women In Art: A History of Women Artists by Edith Krull, although difficult to use as a reference text (artists names are not highlighted in any way) contains reproductions that I haven't seen elsewhere. Cassell, distributed by Sterling Publishing, 387 Park Ave. S., NY NY 10016-8810, \$29.95 cl, 0-289-80019-6.

Photography at the Dock: Essays on Photographic History, Institutions, and Practices by Abigail Solomon-Godeau is a complex book, a fascinating, eloquent, sometimes maddening collection of special interest to anyone involved in the academic study of photography. University of Minnesota Press, \$39.95 cl, 0-8166-1913-1.

The Fabric of Memory: Ewa Kuryluk: Cloth Works, 1978-1987 by Kott, White, Grabska, and Kuryluk is an odd, mystical, beautiful book of images by a Polish artist, teacher, critic, poet and cultural historian born in 1946. The work is difficult to describe: well executed drawings that relate in a surreal way to Kathe Kollwitz or to Frida Kahlo are made on cloth which is then draped or hung, accenting the strangeness and power of the images. Formations, distributed by Northwestern University Press, \$45 cl, 0-9618354-0-0.

Now available in paper: **At Twelve: Portraits of Young Women** by Sally Mann is a disturbing, haunting, and emotionally charged photo exploration of the transition period between being a child and becoming an adult. Aperture, \$19.95 pb, 0-89381-330-3. ○

SUSANNA STURGIS

ON

SCIENCE FICTION



Looks like bad news from London: all but one of the editorial staff of The Women's Press has resigned, in what one report says may have been an "internal putsch." One of the resignees was Sarah Lefanu, the sf editor. The Women's Press f/sf series has absolutely no competition in either scope or accomplishment; if it's eliminated or gutted, both feminist fiction and f/sf sustain a major loss.

If you and/or any of your favorite customers love comic books, graphic novels, and "zines" of any/all kinds, consider keeping *Factsheet Five* in your resource corner. Sprawling, eclectic lists of mags, one-shots, small-press books, all sorts of irreverent stuff. A year's sub (eight issues) is \$23 to *Factsheet Five*, c/o Mike Gunderloy, 6 Arizona Ave., Rensselaer, NY 12144.

A little hard to get but very worth the effort for anyone concerned with book censorship, particularly the economic "market forces" variety, is Cristina Sedgewick's "The Fork in the Road: Can Science Fiction Survive in Postmodern, Megacorporate America?" Sedgewick explores, among other things, the influence on contemporary f/sf of chain bookstore/publisher connections and "professionalism," a hot issue in f/sf these days. In feminist circles the word generally implies the ascendance of therapists and social workers. In f/sf it suggests a hierarchy based on whether and how much one is paid for writing; for instance, a work is not eligible for the Bram Stoker (horror) awards unless the author is paid at least 3 cents/word. The article appeared in *Science-Fiction Studies*, vol. 18 (1991), which can be had for \$5, checks payable to SFS Publications, from editor Robert M. Philmus, English Dept., Concordia Univ., 7141 Sherbrooke St. W., Montreal, Quebec, Canada H4B 1R5.

Pulphouse Publishing specializes in short fiction published in a variety of formats, collections, maga-

zines, and single-story, perfect-bound books. L. Timmel Duchamp (whose "Forbidden Words of Margaret A." is a standout in *The Women Who Walk Through Fire*) has had a novelette published as one of the latter: "A Case of Mistaken Identity," which like several of Timmi's stories explores the connection of reader and text. It's marvelous, and a don't-miss for teachers and fans of Jane Austen. They're not set up for wholesale distribution, but it would be worth your while to receive their seasonal catalogues: Pulphouse Publishing, Box 1227, Eugene, OR 97440.



Another tidbit: *Venus Rising*, a "chapbook novelette" by Carol (*Carmen Dog*) Emshwiller, can be had from Edgewood Press (P.O. Box 264, Cambridge, MA 02238) for \$5 retail, \$1 postage. Edgewood publishes the annual *Best of the Rest* collection, showcasing excellent f/sf from the small (which by their definition is pretty teeny) presses.

Finally, Ursula K. Le Guin's *Tehanu*, the last Earthsea book, won the Nebula Award of the Science Fiction Writers of America (SFWA), and Pat Murphy's collection *Points of Departure* won the Philip K. Dick award for best original paperback of 1990. I take back most of the snide things I said about dick awards, till next year at least.

AVON

Deepwater Dreams, by Sydney J. Van Scyoc, \$3.95 (0-380-76003-7). Anyone whose publisher compares her to Le Guin and Slonczewski has to be worth at least a look; I liked several early Van Scyoc novels very much, especially *Darkchild*. Here, young islanders, descendants of a genetically engineered human

race, are tested by the surrounding ocean; the protagonist is a young woman who encounters a hitherto secret ocean-dwelling people.

Lens of the World, by R[oberta]. A. MacAvoy, \$3.95 (-71016-1). The author of *Tea with the Black Dragon*, *Twisting the Rope*, and the Damiano series starts a new fantasy trilogy with this one, which was well reviewed in hardcover a year ago. This is narrated by Nazhuret "of the goblin face," oppressed for his ugliness and short stature and unknown background; the tale is a heroic coming of age.



BAEN BOOKS

Khyren, by Aline Boucher Kaplan, \$3.50 (0-671-69781-1). Though the writing is sometimes cumbersome (nothing a good line editing couldn't have improved) and a few nagging questions remain, this first novel is an asset for a feminist collection. Protagonist Dara is sucked out of her contemporary suburban neighborhood onto Khyren, whose low-tech inhabitants are monitored and occasionally manipulated by a hypersophisticated Brotherhood. The book features memorable cameo appearances by two women's communities — the il Tarz, a prosperous interplanetary trading family, and Khyren's Order of the Lady, a community of refuge and subtle resistance.

Barrayar, by Lois McMaster Bujold, \$4.99 (-72083-X). A prequel to Bujold's very popular, award-winning Vorkosigan Saga, in which husband and wife Aral Vorkosigan and Cordelia Naismith undertake the task of seeing that a five-year-old grows up to assume the throne on a feudal world. The novel is currently being serialized in *Analog*. A whole panel at Wiscon was dedicated to the proposition that Bujold wrote "space opera for feminists"; one of these days I'm going to find out for myself. October.

Shadow's Daughter, by Shirley Meier, \$4.99 (-72096-1). In which a magic-gifted street kid survives to become a hero in F'talezon of the Fifth Millennium. Meier co-authored (with S. M. Stirling) a fantasy adventure trilogy featuring a barbarian amazon and her female companion lover. This might be worth a look. November.

Next February (1992!) Baen plans to publish its first trade paperback, a one-volume edition of Eliza-

beth Moon's much-praised "Deed of Paksenarrion" trilogy (*Sheepfarmer's Daughter*, etc.).

BANTAM/SPECTRA

Phantom Banjo, by Elizabeth Scarborough, \$4.99 (0-553-28761-3). The first volume in the "Songkiller Saga" seems to be one of this author's lighter entertainments, counterpoint to her grimmer, realer novels like *The Healer's War* (which you're carrying of course) and *Nothing Sacred*. One reviewer notes that it takes off from real-time folk music issues, pitting the unions (e.g., ASCAP and BMI) against the folk clubs. Should be fun, especially for other folkies, though it doesn't sound as compelling as my favorite musical fantasies: *Gossamer Axe* by Gael Baudino and *The War for the Oaks* by Emma Bull.

Shivering World, by Kathy Tyers, \$4.50 (-39051-7). Graysha has a genetic disorder that will kill her by age 40 and is willing to try "genegineering" in order to have a normal child; Graysha's mother is a top investigator in the government's program to halt genetic engineering. The result is said to be a standard genre thriller with pro and con ethics and cults.



DAW BOOKS

Blood Price, by Tanya Huff, \$3.99 (0-88677-471-3). An unlikely and uneasy trio — a hard-boiled (male) detective, a (female) private investigator and ex-cop, and the illegitimate vampire son of Henry VIII (yeah, you read that right) — team up to solve a grisly series of murders in Toronto. As in Huff's previous novels, the well-drawn and often crotchety characters lift this one well above average. Witch-hunting literal and metaphorical is a minor theme. The end leaves the door open for more adventures by the same team — yes, please!

Sword-Breaker, by Jennifer Roberson, \$4.99 (-476-4). This concludes the popular and well-done series of Tiger and Del, swordsman and swordswoman whose relationship has evolved realistically through the four books. This one seems pretty heavy on magical good and evil. 07/91

Merovingen Nights: Endgame, ed. by C. J. Cherryh, \$4.99 (-481-0). An innovative format for #7 in one of sf's better "shared world" series: stories by Cherryh, Bradley H. Sinor, Mercedes Lackey, Nancy

Asire, Janet & Chris Morris, and Lynn Abbey are "braided" together to form an interconnected narrative, as much like a novel as an anthology. August.



Coming in September is yet another in the tried-and-true series: **Sword and Sorceress VIII**, ed. by Marion Zimmer Bradley (-486-1, \$4.50). Are we really up to eight already? I've lost count; who knows how many Friends of Darkover anthologies MZB has edited? November brings another, **Leroni of Darkover** (-494-2, \$4.99), about Darkover's psychically gifted. Mercedes Lackey starts a new/old series in October; **Winds of Fate** (-489-6, \$18.95 cl) stars Elspeth, the bratty heir who grew conscientious in *Arrows of the Queen*, in yet another battle against cataclysmic, sorcerous evil. In December there's Jo Clayton's **Wild Magic** (-496-9, \$4.99), set in the universe of the "Drinker of Souls" trilogy, and finally a theme anthology about my favorite quadruped: **Horse Fantastic**, ed. by Martin H. Greenberg and Rosalind M. Greenberg (-504-3, \$4.50).

DOUBLEDAY/FOUNDATION

Beauty, by Sheri S. Tepper, \$19.95 cl (0-385-41939-2); \$12.00 tp (-41940-6). Even before pub date, serious raves for this one, and it looks like a must for feminist stores, even before the mass market comes out. It draws on various fairy tales and epics, from Cinderella to the Bible. Sample praise (from Faren Miller of *Locus*): ". . . magnificent, strange, and capable of drawing blood. . . . Time skips, stalls, accelerates madly, punctuated by further explosions, as hard truths collide with romance, sensible women confront females appallingly vicious or dim, innocence turns world-weary, and Beauty finds a moment of true love amid a welter of ogres and Princes Charming." Well, *my* appetite is whetted; in fact, I'm drooling. August.

HOUGHTON MIFFLIN

Enter Three Witches, by Kate Gilmore, \$13.95 cl (0-395-50213-6). I haven't seen this, but *Locus* called it "one of the most intelligently funny YA fantasies to come out in years." A teenage boy raised among witches in modern New York struggles to cope with his weird

household and his first girlfriend, all the while his school is appropriately enough producing *Macbeth*.

MACMILLAN

Several YA fantasies of interest. In Peni R. Griffin's **A Dig in Time** (McElderry, 0-689-50525-6, \$13.95 cl), two children visiting their grandmother in San Antonio discover that different objects can transport them back in time; their travels reveal much about themselves, their parents and grandparents. **Winning Scheherazade** by Judith Gorog (Atheneum, -31648-8, \$11.95 cl) follows that legendary sultana after her storytelling skills have won her freedom and fame. Inspired by Nessie, selkies, and other Scottish tales, Alison Smith's **Come Away Home** (Scribner's, 0-684-19283, \$11.95 cl) features a young sea monster separated from his kin who finds human and animal friends on the shore of a placid loch. The protagonist of Nancy Luenn's **Goldclimbers** (Atheneum, 0-689-31585-6, \$13.95 cl), a young apprentice goldsmith, seeks adventure rather than the dull certainty of following in his father's footsteps; he gets more than he imagined.

PENGUIN/ROC

Sunder, Eclipse, & Seed, by Elyse Guttenberg, \$4.95 (0-451-45046-9). This more than lived up to my expectations, for its characters, their neofeudal world, and especially its spiritual underpinnings. *Sunder, Eclipse, and Seed* combine the qualities of the Triple Goddess and the Fates, and dreams are a powerful force among humans. Protagonist Calyx, Guttenberg's vivid prose, and the main theme — the slow gathering of the three long-sundered of this world — promise a far above average trilogy.



POCKET

The Skin of the Soul, ed. by Lisa Tuttle, price n/a, probably mass market. First U.S. edition of an excellent British anthology of women's horror fiction. Combines familiar names (e.g. Karen Joy Fowler, Joyce Carol Oates) with new, U.S. with U.K. Worth the price alone is Suzy McKee Charnas's award-winning "Boobs," one of the great girl-coming-of-age stories, which will freak out everyone who still thinks that little girls are sugar and spice and everything nice. October.

ROUTLEDGE, CHAPMAN & HALL

Where No Man Has Gone Before, ed. by Lucie Armitt, \$16.95 tp (0-415-04448-0). This British collection of essays on women and science fiction includes the expected studies of C. L. Moore, Ursula Le Guin, Doris Lessing, and Mary Shelley. But some, like Lisa Tuttle's on human-to-animal transformations, consider recent work: Charnas's "Boobs," Murphy's "Rachel in Love," Emshwiller's *Carmen Dog*, etc. Several deal with the difficulties of categorizing f and sf, not to mention h (for horror); when do they turn into r (romance), hf (historical fiction), or m (mystery)? A worthwhile anthology for the serious student/reader of women's f/sf.

TOR

Mairelon the Magician, by Patricia C. Wrede, \$17.95 cl, 0-312-85041-7). In an alternate Regency England a street urchin doesn't want to grow up; adulthood will blow her cover as a boy. An attempt to search a stage magician's wagon kicks off the adventure, which *Locus* called "charming, fun, and totally frivolous — excellent escapist fare." Unless your customers are paying \$18 for same, hold for the paperback.

Troika, by Louise Cooper, \$4.50 (-50799-1). Book 5 of the "Indigo" series is out at last in the U.S., about a woman who is given long life in order to redress a wrong she committed as an impetuous, arrogant girl. Very well written; one of a very few long-running fantasies whose volumes I actually look forward to.



WARNER

Heavy Time, by C. J. Cherryh, \$19.95 cl (0446-516163). I love C. J. Cherryh's books, even when I haven't a clue what's going on, politically or technologically. Trouble is, she's so prolific I fell behind before *Cyteen*. This is the earliest so far among the Union-Alliance novels (which include *Downbelow Station* and *Rimrunners*, as well as *Cyteen*) and like them is both technically rigorous and peopled with characters as complex and choices as difficult as our own. Unless you have hard-core sf customers and/or Cherryh fan(atic)s, you'll probably wait for the paperback. I'd buy the hardcover if I didn't have 50 books on my "to read" shelves. ○

Back to Press, continued from page 38.

collection *Seventeen Syllables and Other Stories* (Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press), aired on PBS's American Playhouse in May. The one-hour drama, adapted and directed by Emiko Omori, explores the changing relationships within the structure of a Japanese American family living in California's Salinas Valley in the late 1930s.



Awards

The National Women's Political Caucus honored 13 women writers at its Distinguished Achievement Awards event this spring. Writers honored and their books include: Amy Tan for *The Joy Luck Club* and *The Kitchen God's Wife*; Jessica Mitford for *Daughters and Rebels* and *Poison Penmanship*; Anne Lamott for *Hard Laughter* and *All New People*; Sheila Ballantyne for *Imaginary Crimes* and *Norma Jean the Termite Queen*; Harriet Rohmer of the Children's Book Press for *The Invisible Hunters* and *Family Pictures*; Vicki Ruiz for *Cannery Women*, *Cannery Lives* and *Unequal Sister: A Multicultural Reader in U.S. Women's History*; Alice Adams for *Superior Women* and *Caroline's Daughters*; Ruthanne Lum McCunn for *An Illustrated History of the Chinese in America* and *A Thousand Pieces of Gold*; Alev Lytle Crouzier for *Harem: The World Behind the Veil* and *Tell Me A Riddle*; Patricia Zavella for *Women's Work and Chicano Families: Cannery Workers of the Santa Clara Valley*; Candy Dawson Boyd for *Charlie Pippin and Breadsticks and Blessing Places*; Anne Machung for *Second Shift*; and Esther Silverstein Blanc for *Babe and Berchick*.

For the first time since 1959, an American woman has won the mystery world's highest award, Mystery Writers of America's Edgar Allan Poe Award. The winner is Julie Smith, whose *New Orleans Mourning* was selected as Best Novel of 1990. A second Sister in Crime, Patricia Daniels Cornwell, received a Best First Novel Edgar for her work *Postmortem*. Sisters in Crime members also captured all three of this year's Agatha Awards: Nancy Pickard's *Bum Steer* won Best Novel; Katherine Hall Page's *The Body in the Belfry* took Best First Novel; and Joan Hess's "Too Much to Bare" from *Sisters in Crime 2* won as Best Short Story. In addition, Charlene Weir received a \$10,000 advance for her novel *A Killing Frost*, winner of the St. Martin's Press Malice Domestic Contest for Best First Traditional Mystery Novel. — AM

FROM OUR OWN PRESSES



Compiled by Carol Seajay

This issue sees debuts from a number of new lesbian presses!

Boojamra and Alice Frier of Womankind Books have been alternately threatening and promising to go into publishing for some time now — but not until they found just the right books to launch the new company. Last year they announced the name — Rising Tide Press. And this year — having kept the titles a secret — they launched their first two books at ABA, giving copies of both books to representatives of all the bookstores attending Feminist Bookstores Day.

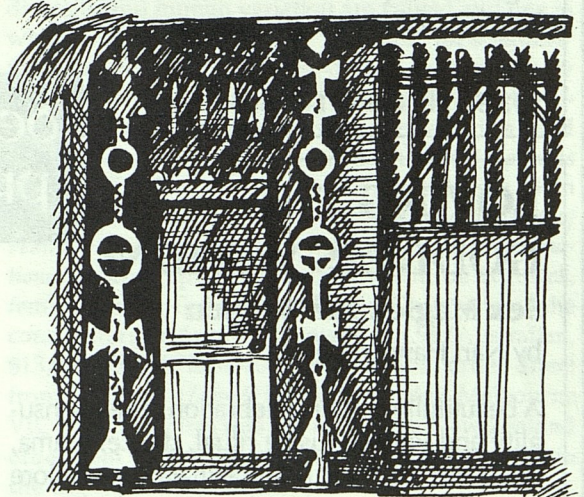
Edge of Passion by a couple writing as Shelley Smith (*Horizons of the Heart; The Pearls*) is the second Provincetown novel to hit the scene this year. This one starts with the rich-and-famous falling in love with your basic ordinary “regular” middle-aged dyke across the crowded dance floor of the Blue Moon Cafe. But will it work? Can it work? *Can Rich-and-Famous* keep up with a woman who knows who she is and what she wants? Very few lesbian novels deal seriously with drug-related issues. This is the only one I know of that includes the consequences of drug usage

Bookpeople (BP) and Inland (IN) distribute small press books to bookstores. “BP” or “IN” at the end of an annotation means that the books are available from that distributor. Both distributors stock a wide range of titles and publishers of interest to feminist bookstores. If you are a new store or don’t already work with both distributors, drop everything and call for catalogs.

Inland Book Company, PO Box 120261, 140 Commerce St., East Haven CT 06512. Order number: 800-243-0138 (including Canada and Connecticut).

Bookpeople, 2929 Fifth St., Berkeley, CA 94710. Phone: 800-999-4650.

in the fast lane. I’m not known for my rave reviews of Shelley Smith titles, but this one makes an important contribution to lesbian literature. Though I have to add that I’m now ready for the next step: an alternative option on this particular experience. \$8.95 pb, 0-9628938-1-1



Romanian gates with goddess figure.
Goddess Embroideries of Eastern Europe, Mary Kelly

Romancing the Dream by H. H. Johanna tackles woman-hating, homophobic adversaries — and triumphs. What is it that draws women to the seemingly ordinary town of Kushan? And can they get away with it? Will they? And when push comes to shove (and it does) will the townspeople support the women they’ve come to know and trust or will they side with the rednecks they’ve known all their lives? A quick Friday night read with silk and leather in all the vanilla shades. \$8.95 pb, -0-3.

Booksellers dream terms: 45% discount for 10-20 books; 50% for 21+, net 30 days. Invoices not paid within

TO KNOW:

A Guide to Women's Magic and Spirituality

by Jade

The who, what, where . . . and **why** of the explosive women's spirituality movement clearly and lovingly explained by Jade, visionary, organizer, catalyst, teacher, Witch and co-publisher of *Of A Like Mind*.

A resource filled with insightful answers and information as valuable to a woman just finding Womanspirit as to a woman who's been Witching for years.

\$13.95 pb; ISBN: 1-878980-00-9

SHE CHANGES:

A Goddess Myth for Modern Women

by Tessa Mark (August 1991)

A stunning tale of transformation and power that moves from behind the cloistered wall of a convent to a birthing center in the hills of Appalachia and tells the story of how one woman find the Goddess and thereby finds herself.

Literate, graceful and lyrically written, *She Changes* recounts the spiritual metamorphosis experienced by a woman claiming her own power and destiny.

\$12.95 pb; ISBN: 1-878980-03-3

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LOVING THE GODDESS WITHIN:

Sex Magick for Women

by Nan Hawthorne

A beautifully written celebration of sex, sensuality and women, using ritual, dance, drama, myth and – above all – imagination to explore sexuality as a sacred connection to the beauty of creation and to the re-emerging Goddess.

The book encourages all women – whether partnered with women, men or alone – to explore the realities and joys of their own personal sexuality.

\$13.95 pb; ISBN: 1-878980-01-7

THE EYE GODDESS

By O.G.S. Crawford (August 1991)

With a New Introduction

by Miriam Robbins-Dexter

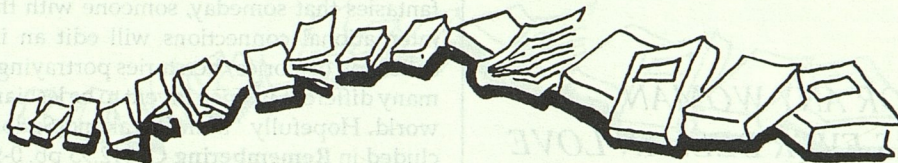
A daring work of original scholarship, published by Cambridge University in 1957. It is the first cohesive study of the migration of the ancient Goddess's "eyes" and icons throughout the Neolithic world, including 48 pages of photographs and hundreds of line drawings.

The new introduction updates the work and examines its value to feminists seeking to reclaim the historic foundation of women's spirituality.

\$19.95 pb; ISBN: 1-878980-04-1

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30 days revert to 40% discount. Toll free ordering: 800-648-5333 or fax 516-423-6642. Rising Tide Press, 5 Kivy St., Huntington Station, NY 11746. To order fewer than ten books, call Inland or Bookpeople.

Tea for Thirteen by Candis J. Graham is a collection of thirteen stories that explore the ups and downs of many aspects of contemporary lesbian life — I was particularly enchanted to come across a story about finishing a grant application — just as we were finishing a grant application here at FBN. Right on time and right on target! Her distinctive humour and insight create endearing characters who struggle to make sense of a not-so-perfect world. Your customers have seen her work in *Fireweed*, *Common Lives*, and *Lesbian Bedtime Stories II*. Impertinent Press is a new Canadian publisher that specializes in lesbian fiction. \$9.95 pb, 1-895349-00-1. Box 23097, 2121 Carling Ave. Ottawa ONT K2A 4E2. Distributed by Inland.

Paradigm Publishing Company (no relation to Paradigm Women's Bookstore or Paradigm [Music] Distribution as far as we know) has just published their first two books. **Taken By Storm** by Linda Kay Silva is a police procedural featuring Delta Stevens, a cop who sees her partner Miles Brookman brutally murdered. Investigating his death leads to a drug ring run by her own department's vice-squad, and even more unexpectedly, falling in love with a prostitute. **Taken By Storm** is the first of three novels featuring Delta Stevens. Silva has also completed a novel about a lesbian couple in Nazi Poland. \$8.95 pb, 0-9628595-1-6.

Expenses by Penny Lorio offers a bar dyke/news paper columnist with smarts and attitude (and a lot of cigarettes and alcohol, given the former), insight into everyone else's life, and an ongoing mental tape that never lets up. A heroic act lands her in a relationship with "a weathy, beautiful woman of society" who fights her way through family pressure and physical abuse from her (ex-) fiancé to find new and larger choices for herself. \$8.95 pb, -0-8.

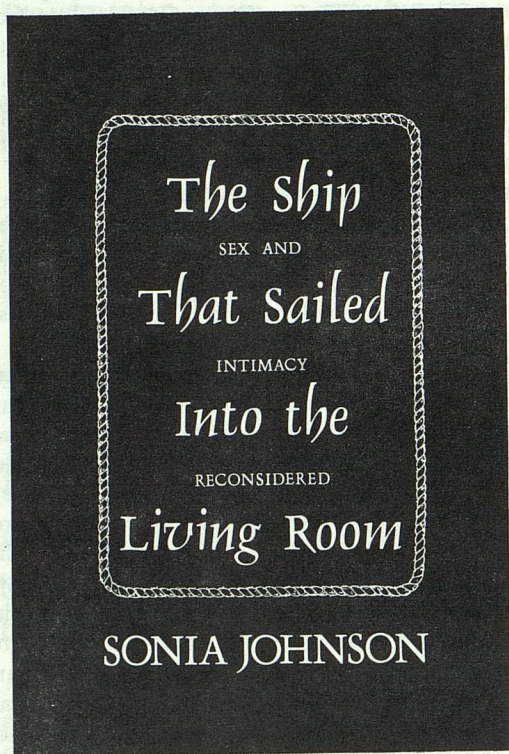
Available direct from Paradigm Publishing Company, PO Box 3877, San Diego CA 92163 or from Inland.

Angels of Power is the first title from Spinifex, the new Australian feminist press. In this book, imagination, vision and a good joke have the power to show "reproductive technologies" (reported to be about as effective and useful as dieting) for what they are and to carry us into a different future: one in which diversity and human variation are valued and one in which women are no longer "test sites" for scientists' fantasies. It includes fiction, drama, and poetry by writers from Canada, the U.S., New Zealand and Australia. Edited by reproductive rights activists (and now feminist publishers) Susan Hawthorne (*Moments of Desire; The Exploding Frangipani*) and Renate Klein (*Infertility/Pandora and Radical Voices: A Decade of Feminist Resistance from the Women's Studies International Forum*). Spinifex' next book will be *Too Rich*, feminist crime fiction by Melissa Chan, one of the contributors to **Angels of Power**. \$14.95/Australian, \$13/US pb. 1-875559-00-0. In Australia, order direct from Spinifex, 4/49-59 Stanley St., West Melbourne VIC 3003. 35% firm sale FIS for 10+. In New Zealand order from Daphne Brassell & Associates. Available in the U.S. from Bookpeople.



Sister Vision published three new books this summer. **Remembering G and Other Stories** by Sister Vision collective member Makeda Silvera, is a collection of lively vignettes of life in the Caribbean and a young girl's personal journey into womanhood. The stories move from personal domestic concerns to explore social, cultural and sexual issues. Silvera's "Man Royal and Sodomites: Some Thoughts on Afro-Caribbean Lesbians" is one of the most wonderful pieces of lesbian history I've ever read. I have wild

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NATIONAL MEDIA & SPEAKING TOUR

fantasies that someday, someone with the necessary international connections will edit an international collection of stories/herstories portraying some of the many different women invent to be lesbian around the world. Hopefully "Man Royal and Sodomites" is included in **Remembering G.** \$12.95 pb, 0-920813-60-7.

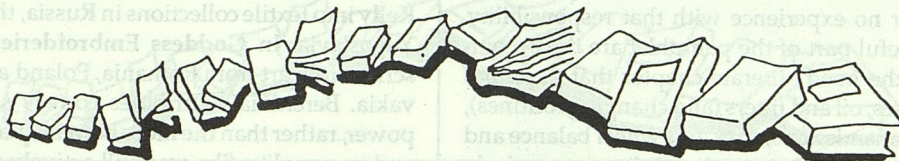
The poems in Ramabai Espinet's **Nuclear Seasons** cut through layers of silence to speak with a voice that is Caribbean, Indian, rural, urban, unplaced, angry, feminist and lyrical, to challenge conventional ways of seeing and rage against the winner-takes-all morality of power politics. Espinet also edited *Creation Fire*. \$11.95 pb, -61-5.

Passion, corruption, and childhood secrets ignite **Guayana Betrayal**. In this first novel by Norma De Haarte, the friendship between two young girls persists into an adulthood where their bond stands witness to a tragic collusion between a people longing for a savior and a psychotic leader. One becomes politically involved with this man, the other desperately seeks love in an attempt to escape her mother's influence. \$14.95 pb, -80-1.

Sister Vision: Black Women and Women of Colour Press, PO Box 217, Station E, Toronto ONT, Canada M6H 4E2. Distributed by University of Toronto, IN & BP.

Founded in 1988, Astarte Shell specializes in books on feminist spirituality and politics. **The Moon in Hand: A Mystical Passage** by Eclipse is a powerful addition to the emerging genre of feminist mysticism. It includes rituals, exercises, meditations and stories organized around the four directions of ancient traditions. It is designed for group use, but can also be used by individuals interested in delving more deeply into the Mysteries and into themselves. Eclipse is an earthwitch, activist, teacher and mother. She works with children with behavioral and/or emotional disorders using ritual art, symbolism and expressive therapy. \$12.95 pb, 0-9624626-1-6. 4 color plates. Astarte Shell Press, PO Box 10453, Portland ME 04104. Inland and Bookpeople.

Naiad has released two books in July and will publish three in August, all perfectly timed for beach-reading. Judith Alguire's future-based **Zeta Base** strikes a familiar chord with women scientist's findings being disregarded by a male-controlled establish-



ment more concerned with their egos than ecology... \$9.95 pb, 0-941483-94-0. **Second Chance** by Jackie Calhoun (*Lifestyles*), set in America's heartland, features women working through the complexity of marriage past, children less-than-thrilled with Mom's new lifestyle, the high demands of running one's own business, the best (and the most frustrating) of the gay community, and women making the best choices they can from what life offers. \$9.95 pb, -93-2.

In August Naiad offers **The Hallelujah Murders: A Poppy Dillworth Mystery** by Dorothy Tell (*Murder at Red Rook Ranch*), \$8.95 pb -88-6; **Clearwater**, a new mystery by Catherine Ennis (*To the Lightening and South of the Line*), \$8.95 pb, -65-7; and **The Daughters of Artemis: A Caitlin Reece Mystery** by Lambda Literary Award winner Lauren Wright Douglas (*Ninth Life*) \$8.95 pb, -95-9.

Naiad Press, PO Box 10543, Tallahassee FL 32302. 800-533-1973. IN, BP and most distributors.

Assuming that the printing/binding problems are straightened out, you should already have (or have again) Sonia Johnson's **The Ship That Sailed Into the Living Room**, Sonia's telling of her "relation Ship," its demise, and her analysis of why and of (lesbian) relationships in a patriarchal world. She asks: Why relationships cause such anguish? Are couple relationships ever what they seem? Do relationships ever work? (Is co-dependency a symptom of patriarchy?) Is true intimacy possible *without* sex? With sex? Is sex even natural to women? And, if not, how would we be intimate if we hadn't been reared in patriarchy? \$12.95 pb, 1-877617-06-7; \$19.95 cl, -07-5. Wildfire Books, PO Box 10598, Albuquerque NM 87184. Order from Wildfire, IN, BP and most distributors.

Recent releases from The Feminist Press include: **Long Walks and Intimate Talks: Stories and Poems** by Grace Paley with paintings by Vera Williams was originally published last year as a calendar to benefit

the War Resisters League. A wonderful feast of Paley's poetry and short fiction in a riot of colorful illustrations. Williams is the much loved author and illustrator of *A Chair for My Mother* and *Three Days on a River in a Red Canoe*. \$12.95 pb, 1-55861-044-8. **Women's Studies International: Nairobi and Beyond** edited by Aruna Rao is the first international portrait of the fields of women's studies and women in development studies. It includes updated versions of papers presented at Nairobi, new essays discussing theory and method, detailed descriptions of major programs in ten countries, and 200 organizations engaged in teaching, research, and action in 40 countries. \$15.95 pb, -032-4; \$35 cl, -031-6. **Margaret Howth** by Rebecca Harding Davis (*Life in the Iron Mill*) and a reprint of **Here's to the Women: 100 Songs For and About American Women** edited by Hilda Wenner and Elizabeth Freilicher. \$24.95 pb, -042-1; \$49.95 cl-041-3. The Feminist Press, 311 East 94th St., NY NY 10128. Available from Talman, the distributors, BP, Ingram and B & T. The distributors stock every Feminist Press title I'm told, and Ingram stocks all the non-academic titles in superstock and, increasingly, at other locations.



The 1991-1992 edition of the **Directory of Women's Media** should be out by September. Formerly published by the Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press, this will be the first edition from the National Council for Research on Women. This edition promises to list 2,000 presses, periodicals, publisher (and presumably bookstores) and other media by, for and about women. Compiled by Paulette Tulloch. \$30 retail/\$25 until September 1. 40% for 3+. NCRW, 47-49 East 65th St., NY NY 10021.

A Woman's Guide to Dealing with Auto Mechanics by Tracie Sullivan seems to be addressed to women who are suddenly responsible for a car and

have little or no experience with that responsibility. The most useful part of the pamphlet are the becoming-“under the hood”-literate chapter that describes belts and hoses, oil and filters (and changing routines), automatic transmissions, tires and wheel balance and the basic vocabulary section that defines vapor lock, coolant, ignition, exhaust system, the steering system, tune-ups, etc. I liked the suggestions for finding a good technician (mechanic): ask around and, failing that, go to the supermarket and wait for a woman driving a car like yours. When she gets out of her car, ask where she gets it repaired. \$5.95 pb, 38 pb, saddle stitched pamphlet, 0-9620499-0-5. T. Sullivan Books, 1187 S. Sierra Bonita Ave., Los Angeles CA 90019. 40% bookstore discount. No min.

Goddess Embroideries of Eastern Europe by Mary B. Kelly begins with a wonderful tale of recognition and research. Reading a pamphlet from the Ukrainian Museum in NY, Kelly first came across the name of the goddess Berehinia with illustrations from ritual cloths that looked strangely familiar. Her quest for these amazingly common goddess embroideries and Her representation in other aspects of folk art took

Kelly into textile collections in Russia, the Ukraine and Yugoslavia. In **Goddess Embroideries** she also describes folk art from Romania, Poland and Czechoslovakia. Berehinia’s attributes convey sacredness and power, rather than the more human qualities of beauty and personality. She was still actively worshipped in remote regions of Eastern Europe through the 19th and into the 20th Century. How did the motifs survive so long? Embroidery is thought to be even more ancient and archaic than literature and is a perfect medium for preserving visual motifs. The act of embroidery as well as the ritual cloths developed were an active part of the Eastern European goddess worship. Women passed cloths and dowries from generation to generation to generation. The strong split between the aristocracy and the peasants, the church’s primary attention to power centers and both the lawmakers and the church’s opinion that farmers and women weren’t important left both this art form — and much of the practice — intact into the 20th century. **Goddess Embroideries** offers wonderful source material, exciting information, and a great tale of research and discovery. \$25.00 pb, 0-929021-24-X. 200 pgs, large format, 10 color photos, 60 b&w photos, +

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SUMMER TITLES



Melvina, a country kid, drives up to a women’s bar in the city in a spiffy new Cadillac convertible. None of her new-found friends know what to make of her—a tough-acting dyke who’s never had a girl friend, an innocent who lies a lot to hide her past. Yet they can’t help but be intrigued as she entices Sal, one of the mainstays of the community, to drive off with her in search of a long lost friend.

Romance

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Bay Area Reporter

Mystery

She Died Twice
by Jessica Lauren

ISBN 0-934678-34-0

\$8.95

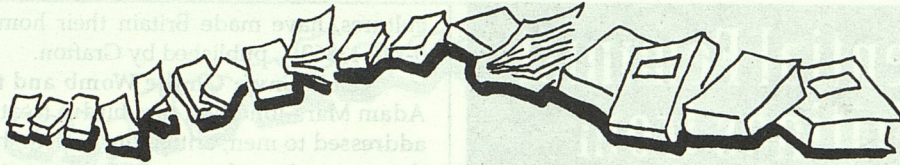
Vicki P. McConnell
author of *Double Daughter*
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Twenty years ago, Emma’s childhood friend and first lover, Natalie, mysteriously disappeared. Now the remains of a child are unearthed and Emma is forced to relive the weeks leading up to Natalie’s death as she searches for the murderer.

Childhood friends must face the heart of darkness. Lauren probes their mystery of memory, grief, and grown-up terrors with a narrative touch light as a cheek that rests on a shoulder, delicate as a summer butterfly. With a tender/tough twist, justice persists and friendship proves the best detective when love has been no protector.

SHE DIED TWICE





200 illustrations and diagrams. 40% bookstore discount, no min. Originally published by Northland Press, now distributed by Studiobooks, PO Box 23, McLean NY 13102.

Soundprint's two part series on Women and Breast Cancer is now available on audio-cassette. "A Primer on Breast Cancer" and "Reaching for Power Through the Pain," featuring Audre Lorde may be ordered by sending \$15.00 to Soundprint, 2216 N. Charles St., Baltimore MD 21218. No bookstore discounts available, but a great resource. Associate producer for the project was Debbie Morris who also produces the readings series at Lammas. For those of you who wonder what happens to people when they leave feminist bookstores: Debbie managed Lammas Bookstore in DC until she left to take up radio.

Four Virago Press titles were released in the U.S. this summer. **How Do I Look** from the Virago Upstarts (teen series) by Jill Dawson offers interviews and photographs of young women tackling image and self-image issues. Young women from a number of different cultures talk about their changing bodies, dressing to make a statement, challenging stereotypes, of longing to be beautiful, of cultural/social restrictions on women, and how the all-pervasive advertising and media images affect them. A great gift for the young women in any feminist's life. \$9.95 pb, 1-85381-222-6.

Through Connemara in a Governess Cart is a delightful *jue d'esprit* by Edith Somerville and Violet Martin (Ross) drily and self-mockingly describes their week-long adventures (and mis-adventures) in Connemara. Somerville and Martin were cousins and lived together for most of their adult lives. They jointly wrote thirty-some books. Both were ardent feminists and suffragists. When Violet died, Edith, deeply affected by her cousin's death, said: "I have known her help and have thankfully received her inspiration. She

has gone, but our collaboration in not ended." She wrote another thirteen books under the name of "Somerville and Ross." \$11.95 pb, -186-6.

Virago has also just re-released Isabella Bird's **Journeys in Persia and Kurdistan: Volume 1** and **Volume 2**. In January 1890, Bird, aged fifty-nine and four years a widow, began the toughest single journey of her life. Already a veteran of expeditions to the Rocky Mountains, Japan and Malaysia, her challenge this time was a series of punishing journeys into Persia and Kurdistan, Tibet and Ladakh, Korea and China. These journals confirm her reputation as "the boldest, most perceptive and most romantic of Victorian travelers." \$18.95 each, pb. ISBN for **Volume 1** is 0-86068-278-1. ISBN for **Volume 2** is 1-85381-055-X.

Virago Press books are distributed in the U.S. by Trafalgar Square, Box 257, North Pomfret VT 05053. 800-423-4525. 40% discount for 5-24 books, 42% for 25-99, etc.



Trafalgar distributes a number of interesting titles from other publishers that you may want to add to an order. **Just Desserts: Women and Food** by Sally Cline (*Reflecting Men at Twice their Natural Size* with Dale Spender) takes on women's total relationship to food: shopping, cooking, literary images and media messages as well as eating disorders. She catches the societal contradictions and mixed messages addressed to women about food, takes a hard look at the dieting business and examines societal attitudes toward fat. Includes information from interviews with women of widely differing backgrounds from both the U.K. and North America. \$29.95 cl, 0-233-98510-7, published by Andre Deutsch.

The Golden Thread by Zerbano Gifford, is a testament to and a celebration of the lives, experiences, philosophies and achievements of "post-Raj" Asian women who, coming from many countries and

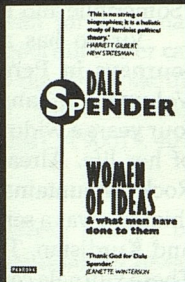
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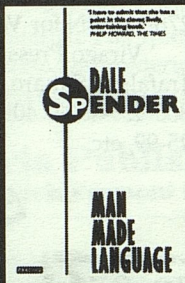
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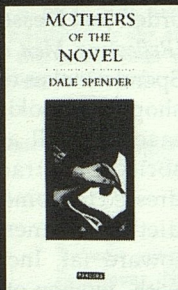


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cultures, have made Britain their home. \$17.95 pb, 0-246-13863-7, published by Grafton.

Venus Envy: On the Womb and the Bomb by Adam Mars-Jones is a rare bird: a treatise by a man, addressed to men, criticizing sexism, heterosexism, the oppression of women, and opportunism in the alleged "post-feminist" world. Expensive for so few words, but much more satisfying than many of the books from the new men's movement. This pamphlet is part of the Chatto & Windus Counterblasts Series. For those of us not privy to British media scandals, a paragraph about original publication and context would be quite helpful..... \$8.95, perfect-bound, 0-7011-3585-9. The other pamphlet in the series that I'd like to see is Fay Weldon's **Sacred Cows: A Portrait of Britain, Post-Rushdie, Pre-Utopia**. All distributed by Trafalgar Square. See above for ordering information.

The latest new titles from the Children's Book Press are **Why Rat Comes First: A Story of the Chinese Zodiac** retold by Clara Yen and illustrated by Hideo C. Yoshida (\$13.95 cl, 0-89239-072-7) and **Judge Rabbit and the Tree Spirit: A Folktale from Cambodia** told by Lina Mao Wall, adapted by Cathy Spagnoli, and illustrated by Nancy Hom (\$13.95 cl, -071-9). **Why Rat Comes First** is a story invented by the teller's father to portray Rat's intelligence and explain rat's place at the head of the Chinese Zodiac cycle. Unlike most Children's Book Press stories, it is not bi-lingual. **Judge Rabbit and the Tree Spirit** is one of the many Judge Rabbit stories in the Cambodian folktale tradition. The character of Judge Rabbit shows self-esteem and self-confidence. Judge Rabbit believes in himself and his ability to solve problems, but doesn't care how he looks or how little he is compared to other animals. Judge Rabbit stories are told to young children to encourage them to be self-confident, intelligent, gentle, kind and willing to help others out of their trouble. Both stories are told in American immigrant communities. Both books are available in cloth only. Distributed by Inland, Bookpeople, and others.

Magazines

Sacred River: A Women's Peace Journal is a new women's newspaper coming out of the San Francisco Bay Area. We've been without a women's newspaper



for years now — and it tells on our community. Hopefully this one will grow into the women's community calendar and resource listing that we so desperately need. *Sacred River* first appeared in June and seems to have grown out of women's anger against the war. The second issue is at the printer as I write this. Look for it to grow and expand. 50% bookstore discount for 2+. Subs are \$10 for 6 months, \$18/year. Sacred River, PO Box 5131, Berkeley CA 94705. 415-658-2182. Distributed by Inland and Bookpeople.

The first issue of *Black Lace*, a cheerfully politically incorrect sex-mag celebrating Black lesbians, sexuality and politics, was published this spring. Poetry by Cheryl Clarke and SDiane Bogus, among others, Lynelle Johnson provides advice for safe sex and pleasurable leather, the short stories "leave nothing to the imagination." Dyke history is provided in SDiane Bogus' "The Myth and Tradition of the Black Bulldagger." Political commentary includes the need to work to destroy apartheid while celebrating the release of Nelson Mandela, and a list of companies that do Black community-targeted advertising but maintain holdings in South Africa. Quarterly. Copies are \$6. Subs are \$20/year. Edited

by Alycee Lane. Published by BLK Publishing, Box 83912, Los Angeles CA 90083. Distributed to bookstores by Inland and Bookpeople.

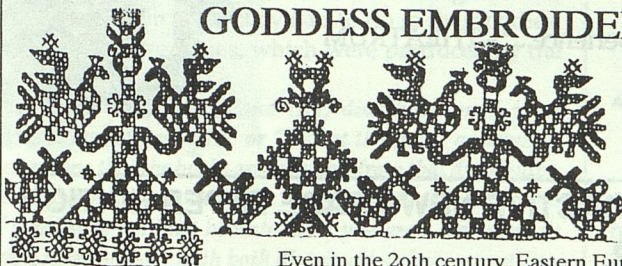
Kuumba is a new poetry journal for Black Lesbians and Gay Men. The first issue (also published Spring 1991) is dedicated to the memory of Pat Parker and Joe Beam and includes fifty pages of work you won't likely find elsewhere. \$4.50/issue. Published quarterly. Subs are \$15/year. Also published by BLK Publishing, Box 83912, Los Angeles CA 90083. Distributed to bookstores by Inland and Bookpeople. Celebrate Black/BLK lesbian and gay publishing and stock them both.

And last, but not least, Giant Ass Publishing presents the second (2nd!) issue of FBN's favorite punk comic book *Hothead Paisan: Homicidal Lesbian Terrorist*, a sort of "good dyke gone mad" from a steady diet of misogynist mediaization. Created by Diane DiMassa and Stacy Sheehan. \$3.00/issue. Order from Inland. Photo on the back (One hot dyke with dental dam, captioned "I wanna dam you in Paris...") is also available as a poster for \$6.00. Giant Ass Publishing, PO Box 214, New Haven CT 06592. Distributed to bookstores by Inland. ○

GODDESS EMBROIDERIES OF EASTERN EUROPE

MARY B. KELLY

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Even in the 20th century, Eastern European women supervised rituals in honor of the Goddess and carefully embroidered her image on their ritual cloths and clothing. Today, the strong powerful Goddess can be found on many kinds of folk art. Author, Mary B. Kelly travelled to Russia and Eastern Europe, collecting tales and colorful embroideries, and interviewing women about the rituals they practiced. She weaves a tale of her search for the Goddess figures and her research on why Goddesses are found in Eastern Europe. *Reviewed in this issue.*

List Price, \$25.

To Booksellers: \$15. +\$2. shipping. 5 for \$80. postpaid.

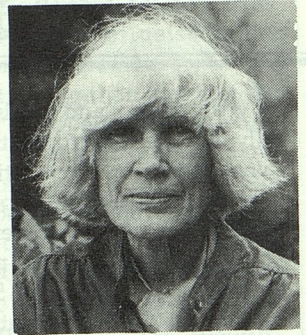
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FROM THE SMALL PRESSES

By Ann Morse

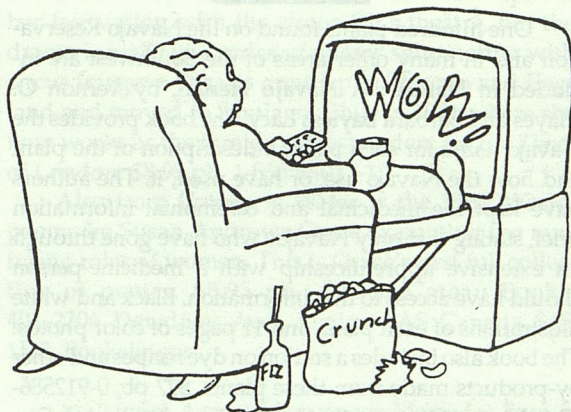
Native writer Beverly Slapin has created a powerful, eye-opening and hilarious antidote to patronizing and biased texts on American Indians in **The Basic Skills Caucasian Americans Workbook**, illustrated by Annie Esposito. "It's hard to believe, but Beverly Slapin actually thinks like a white person, and her enthusiasm for and interest in the lore of the Caucasian is important to modern America," writes Doris Seale ("Curator of the Museum of the American Caucasian") in the introduction to this work of high satire. The approximately 25-page, spiral-bound workbook includes sections on Caucasian American homes, clothing, language, food production, family life, government, rituals, beliefs, and leaders; as well as word searches, fill-in-the-blank exercises, word matches, true and false questions, and essay questions, such as "Describe the Sacred Yuppie Jogging Ceremony." Here's Slapin writing about a Caucasian American fashion custom: "Caucasian American women also bought fashion magazines (fash'-un-ma'-ga-zeenz), which told them what they had to do to their bodies. The fashion magazines, which were produced by the

Bookpeople (BP) and Inland (IN) distribute small press books to bookstores. "BP" or "IN" at the end of an annotation means that the books are available from that distributor. Both distributors stock a wide range of titles and publishers of interest to feminist bookstores. If you are a new store or don't already work with both distributors, drop everything and call for catalogs.

Inland Book Company, PO Box 120261, 140 Commerce St., East Haven CT 06512. Order number: 800-243-0138 (including Canada and Connecticut).

Bookpeople, 2929 Fifth St., Berkeley, CA 94710. Phone: 800-999-4650.

fashion chiefs, said that all women had to be tall and thin. So many, many women went on diets (di'itz). No one knows the origin of that word, but some think it had to do with death, since many women died soon after becoming thin. This was the custom of fashion. Men dictated (dik'-ta-tid) the customs, and women obeyed (o-bayed') them." The workbook is a joint project of the Teaching Peace and Justice Task Force and Oyate, a non-profit group of Native Elders, artists, activists, educators and writers whose purpose is to deal with issues of cultural and historical bias as they affect the lives of all our children. Along with the book, we received an almost 60-title list of Native American



"A Caucasian American 'couch potato' engaging in the TV ritual."
From *The Basic Skills Caucasian Americans Workbook*.

resource books and fiction. \$10 pb. No ISBN. Oyate, 2702 Mathews St., Berkeley, CA 94702. 40%. BP.

Anna Lee Walters' moving and poignant novel **Ghost Singer** takes its theme from the American tradition of looting gravesites and treating human remains and sacred objects as museum curiosities. In **Ghost Singer**, the grief of those whose bones and belongings

have been stored in a Smithsonian attic spills over into the lives of people working there, leading to madness and suicide. The characters in *Ghost Singer* struggle to understand what is happening and why, and to provide resolution for both the living and the dead. Walters, author of *The Sun is Not Merciful* (Firebrand), creates portraits of extended families and community that will be of interest to lesbians, feminists and others who live in non-nuclear families. *Ghost Singer* is most definitely worth the possible hassles of trying to keep it in stock. \$15.95 pb, 0-87358-472-4. Northland Publishing. Distributed by Northland and IN.

Also from Northland Publishing comes *Dreamweaving*, a journal for recording night dreams and day dreams. The book, which has cream pages with dotted, turquoise lines and Southwest-inspired graphics, features quotes from Mary Sojourner's novel *Sisters of the Dream*. 176 pages, 7 x 9. \$9.95 pb, -516-X. Northland Publishing, PO Box N, Flagstaff, AZ 86002. Distributed by Northland, BP and IN.



One hundred plants found on the Navajo Reservation and in many other areas of the Southwest are included in *Nanise': A Navajo Herbal*, by Vernon O. Mayes and Barbara Bayless Lacy. The book provides the Navajo name for each plant, a description of the plant and how the Navajo use, or have used, it. The authors have kept the medicinal and ceremonial information brief, stating that only Navajos who have gone through an extensive apprenticeship with a medicine-person should have access to that information. Black and white illustrations of each plant, and 11 pages of color photos. The book also includes a section on dye recipes and other by-products made from these plants. \$27 pb, 0-912586-62-1. Navajo Community College Press, Tsale, AZ. Distributed by Northland, BP and IN.

Northland and the Navajo Community College Press have reissued *The Sacred: Ways of Knowledge, Sources of Life*, a basic sourcebook on Native American spirituality by Anna Lee Walters, Peggy Bech and Nia Francisco. \$16 pb, -24-9. Northland, BP and IN.

An excellent source of Navajo-specific books is Rough Rock Press, a press affiliated with the Navajo

Resource Center and Rough Rock Community School. A book we understand to be good, but which hasn't made its way to our offices yet, is the 1990 children's title *Lucy Learns to Weave* by Virginia Hoffman, illustrated by Hoke Denetsosie. It tells of Lucy, a young Navajo girl, as she gathers plants and learns about the art of weaving. \$4.50 pb, 0-89019-009-7. Also look out for *Women in Navajo Society* by Ruth W. Roessel, with illustrations by Fred Bia, Charles Roessel and Raymond Roessel. This title has been called the most definitive study of Navajo women. \$36.50 cl, 0-936008-01-6. Rough Rock Press, Rough Rock Community School, RRDS, PO Box 217, Chinle, AZ 86503. 20% for 1; 30% for 2-4; 41% for 5-24.

Searching, Nawal El Saadawi's tale of Fouada and the hunt for her missing lover, Farid, comes highly recommended as one of the Feminist Book Fortnight Selected Twenty titles. Fouada's search is for more than Farid, however. She also takes a journey through her own life and its limitations. \$7.95 pb, 1-85649-009-2; \$15 cl, -008-4. Zed Books, 57 Caledonian Road, London N1 9BU England. Distributed by Humanities Press International, BP and IN.

Four Walls Eight Windows is bringing out Andrea Dworkin's second novel, *Mercy*, in September. *Mercy* tells the story of "Andrea" from age 9 in 1956 to age 27. The relentless, first-person narrative is framed by a prologue and epilogue that parodies a well-to-do "committed feminist." Kate Millett has this to say about the novel, "*Mercy* is terrifying, merciless, like its subject, like rape, like assault, it batters the heart and mind." 352 pages. \$22 cl, 0-941423-69-7. Four Wall Eight Windows, PO Box 548, Village Station, New York, NY 10014. Distributed by Publishers Group West.

Esther Tusquets' *Stranded* is the third book in a loosely connected trilogy, the other books being *The Same Sea as Every Summer* (Nebraska), a portrayal of a short but happy lesbian relationship, and *Love is a Solitary Game* (Riverrun), the story of a woman's relationships with a young man and a young woman. In *Stranded*, Tusquets, a Spanish feminist writer, tells a story of love and betrayal among friends, lovers and spouses who spend their summers together at a resort town on the Costa Brava. Unlike her previous novels,



Stranded has a more optimistic ending and focuses mainly on heterosexual eroticism. Translated from Spanish by Susan E. Clark. \$19.95 cl, 0-916583-83-X. Dalkey Archive Press, 1817 79th Ave., Elmwood Park, IL 60635. IN.

Puerto Rican Writers at Home in the USA, edited by Faythe Turner, features powerful poems and short stories by 7 female and 10 male Puerto Rican writers living in the US. The book opens with a poet's sampler that provides a sense of what the writers share as well as their diversity, and gives the second half of the anthology some context. The rest of the book is devoted to selections by individual authors; each section is introduced with a photo and short biography of the writer. All of the contributors, with the exception of one, were born or arrived in the continental US after World War II. \$19.95 pb, 0-940880-31-8; \$39.95 cl, -32-6. Open Hand Publishing, PO Box 22048, Seattle, WA 98122. BP, IN.

In **Top Top Stories** Anne Turyn has put together a retrospective of fiction, art, photography and graphics culled from the journal she publishes *Top Stories*. The collection, which *The Village Voice* accurately called "punk chic and feminism," includes original work by 14 women and five men. \$9.95 pb, 0-87286-258-5. City Lights Books, 261 Columbus Ave., San Francisco, CA 94133. BP, IN.

There are two new books out in the Semiotext(e) Native Agents Series, a list set up to publish works by women and gay fiction writers. Stories of sex and drugs and the genesis of the underwire bra feature in **If You're A Girl** by Ann Rower (\$5.95 pb, 0-936756-60-8). Cookie Mueller's stories range from her role in the making of John Waters's film *Pink Flamingos* to her Baltimore childhood, and to rape and abduction in **Walking Through Clear Water In a Pool Painted Black** (\$5.95, -61-6). Semiotext(e), 522 Philosophy Hall, Columbia University, New York, NY 10027. IN

Twelve years after Patricia Clark Smith's first book *Talking to the Land* was published, comes **Changing Your Story**. Through the poems in this slim (61-page) volume, Smith explores her Irish-Micmac-Canuk ancestry, the lives of family and friends (including Paula Gunn Allen and Margaret Randall), and her working class background. \$8.95 pb, 0-931122-61-9. West End Press, PO Box 27334, Albuquerque, NM 87125. BP, IN.



Coteau Books recently published two books of poetry by Canadian women. Lake Sagaris exposes life, death and love under the Pinochet regime in Chile and captures the consequences of the army's atrocities in her book of poetry **Circus Love**. She also explores her fascination with the circus ("It's theatre, but the drama is real") in a series of poems shimmering with circus imagery. Sagaris grew up in Toronto and England and moved to Santiago, Chile in 1981 where she now works as the foreign correspondent for the *Times* of London. \$8.95 pb, 1-55050-017-1.

Also from Coteau is **Water is the First World**, poems by Susan Andrews Grace examining the nurturing roles of women. This is Grace's first full collection of poetry. \$8.95 pb, -018-X. Coteau Books, 401-2206 Dewdney Ave., Regina SAS Canada S4R 1H3. Bookslinger.

Acclaimed Argentinian singer Mercedes Sosa is considered by millions of Latin Americans to be the voice of hope and justice. Many times she has brought her songs and messages to the United States. The poems in the bilingual edition of **Mercedes Sosa: The New Woman** were written by Nestor Rodriguez Lacoren as a tribute to the singer during her 1987 and 1988 U.S. tours. "In these poems Lacoren has recorded for the reader, as seen and felt by him, the personality, strength and feelings of a remarkable woman who besides her musical gifts, expresses some of the deep-

"...blend of sweet romance, social commentary and entertaining science fiction... the sort of easy-going read rarely found in gay fiction, and very welcome."
 Richard Labonte, *A Different Light Bookstores*

1990 Lambda Literary Award Gay Men's Science Fiction

Toby Johnson's **Secret Matter**

These are gay-positive, life-affirming novels that will appeal not only to gay men ...that will leave readers touched and happy and glad to be alive ... the kind of books feminist and lesbian & gay booksellers went into business in the first place to make available to their communities

— New from Toby Johnson —

Getting Life in Perspective

A Spiritual Romance Novel

"...a healing book, a book for both lesbians and gay men, a book to help us imagine our roots. I loved it and didn't want it to end."

Ellen Ratner, The Other Side of the Family

From Lavender Press, P.O. Box 998, S. Norwalk, CT 06856 (203) 849 9311.
 Distributed in the U.S. by Inland, Bookpeople
 Secret Matter ISBN 0-93874-13-9 208 pages trade paper retail price \$10.00
 Getting Life in Perspective ISBN 0-93874-17-1 224 pps trade paper retail price \$10.00

est and most basic feminine concerns and ambitions for today's women and for the world." \$14.95 pb, 0-962-70040-1. Latin Culture Publishers, 200 W. 58th St., Suite 10-B, New York, NY 10019. 40% for 5+.

Mary Meigs, a lesbian artist and writer, and seven other women spent the summer of 1988 playing themselves in the semi- documentary film *The Company of Strangers*. Her recently released book, *In The Company of Strangers* tells the story of "how it happened," and also reflects on aging, creation and the magic moments that move us from strangers to intimates. In the opening chapter of the book, which chronicles her initial hesitations about joining the cast, Meigs writes of feeling like a fish in a drift net, being slowly pulled in by the angling filmmakers. Her prose works in a

similar way, slowly circling around the reader and pulling her gently in to the company of friends. \$12.95 pb, 0-88922-294-0. Talonbooks, 201-1019 East Cordova, Vancouver, BC V6A 1M8. Distributed in the U.S. by University of Toronto Press, IN, Bookslinger.

After her exile from South Africa in 1964, renowned writer Bessie Head (*When Rain Clouds Gather, Maru and A Question of Power*) corresponded with Randolph Vigne, a political and literary friend from her Cape Town days who escaped South Africa in 1964 and was publishing *The New African* from London. **A Gesture of Belonging: Letters from Bessie Head, 1965-1979** is a selection of these letters. While much of Head's correspondence from 1970 on exists, this collection will give readers a chance to learn more about Head during her first hard years of exile. \$12.50 pb, 0-435-08059-8. Heinemann Educational Books, 361 Hanover St., Portsmouth, NH 03801.

When 17-year-old Hortense Daman was arrested by German officers in 1944, she'd already been working for the Belgian Resistance for four years. With great courage she survived the ensuing torture and time in Ravensbruck concentration camp and shares her incredible story with Mark Bles in the engrossing **Child at War: The True Story of a Young Belgian Resistance Fighter**. Bles, author of *Kidnap Business*, skillfully sets Daman's story in the context of the historical events of that time and illustrates the book with original black-and-white photographs. The power of this memoir is interrupted by asides from Bles, who takes the liberty of analyzing Daman's decisions. \$20.95 cl, 1-56279-004-8. Mercury House, 201 Filbert St., Suite 400, San Francisco, CA 94133. BP, IN.

Ecco Press has reprinted the feminist classic **The Diary of "Helena Morley"**, the diary written in the late nineteenth century by a young teenage girl living in a small Brazilian town. Translated and edited by Elizabeth Bishop. \$11.95 pb, 0-88001-300-1. The Ecco Press, 26 West 17th St., New York, NY 10011. Distributed by Norton.

Debbie Nathan tackles geographic borders, as well as racial, class and sexual limits in **Women and Other Aliens: Essays from the US-Mexico Border**. This collection includes pieces on women immigrat-



ing from Latin America, the citizenship trial of Margaret Randall, and articles on "the witch-hunt hysteria surrounding 'ritual sex abuse' trials." \$9.95 pb, 0-938317-08-3. Cinco Puntos Press, 2709 Louisville, El Paso, TX 79930. BP, IN.

Zed Books and the United Nations NGO Group on Women and Development have published the first title in the eight-book "Women and World Development Series" — **Women and the World Economic Crisis**. Prepared by Jeanne Vickers, the book illustrates the links between the many factors that led to the world economic crisis; the effects of that crisis on vulnerable groups, especially women; and the ways in which women are confronting this problem, particularly in Ghana, Jamaica, Mexico, the Philippines and Zambia. Includes a guide for using the book for teaching or discussion purposes, an agenda for action, and a glossary of key terms. Illustrated throughout with photographs, cartoons and charts. \$15.95 pb, 0-86232-975-2; \$49.95 cl, -974-4. Zed Books, 57 Caledonian Road, London N1 9BU. Distributed by Humanities Press International, BP and IN.

Joanna Macy, author of several books on Buddhism and on Deep Ecology, has collected many of her talks and essays into her new book **World as Lover; World as Self**, a work that asks readers to consider the world and its creatures as an extension of ourselves. Macy relates, through personal experiences and philosophical discussions, how to apply the ancient Buddhist concept of "dependent co-arising" to our own lives. She is correct when she warns readers in her introduction that some portions of her book, especially those relating specifically to Buddhist concepts, "may demand more rigorous and sustained attention than other parts." \$15 pb, 0-938077-27-9. Parallax Press, PO Box 7355, Berkeley, CA 94707. Distributed by SCB Distributors.

The paperback edition of the 1988 work **Women in Academe: Progress and Prospects** edited by

Mariam K. Chamberlain, chair of the Task Force on Women in Higher Education, is now in print. The volume, based on a three-year study undertaken by 16 women in 1982, examines the changes in the status of women as students, faculty members and administrators, particularly during the past two decades. It also looks at the growth of women's studies programs, women in professional organizations, campus women's centers and research institutes, and women's colleges, and the impact of women's changing roles on institutions of higher education. \$14.95 pb, 0-87154-218-8; \$34.95 cl, -204-8. Russell Sage Foundation, 112 E. 64th St., New York, NY 10021. Distributed by Cornell University Press.



Also from Russell Sage is Charlotte F. Muller's **Health Care and Gender**, an introduction to the ways in which gender, as well as age and class, but not sexual orientation, affect people's ability to receive the health care they need. \$34.95 cl, -610-8.

Steven D. Atkinson and Judith Hudson analyze the range of material available on women's studies research in on-line databases and investigate the problems of accessing this information in **Women Online**. The 16 chapters in the book are organized into three broad groups: disciplines, such as humanities and social sciences; the format of material covered, such as non-bibliographic; and topics, such as lesbian studies and women of color. Most useful to librarians, scholars and students who search databases as well as to database producers. Interesting observations on the sexism in databases and reference materials included throughout. \$22.95 pb, 1-56024-053-9; \$39.95 cl, -037-7. Haworth Press, 10 Alice St., Binghamton, NY 13904. 25% for 1-4, 40% for 5-9, 45% for 10+. BP.

Women Writers Talk is not exactly a small press title, but it was so interesting and feminist that we

wanted to sneak it in. Here, Olga Kenyon interviews 10 fascinating writers about their approaches to writing, their aspirations and their views on class values, relationships, sexuality, feminism, myths and religion. Writers included are Anita Brookner, Margaret Drabble, Alice Thomas Ellis, Eva Figes, Nadine Gordimer, P.D. James, Iris Murdoch, Michele Roberts, Emma Tennant and Fay Weldon. Includes a short bibliography of books on criticism. \$18.95 cl, 0-88184-522-1. Carroll & Graf Publishers, 260 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10001. Distributed by Publishers Group West.



At \$200, most bookstore customers probably won't be picking up their own copies of **An Encyclopedia of Continental Women Writers**, but this two-volume set deserves a place on the reference shelves at the local library. It offers biographies and bibliographies for some 1,800 European women writers going back 15 centuries. However, much of the writing is very academic in tone and the quality varies with the author of each biography. And while Natalie Clifford Barney is included and even identified as a lesbian, the issue of lesbianism is mentioned nowhere in the essay on Violette Leduc, and Gertrude Stein and Monique Wittig are not included at all. Edited by Katharina M. Wilson. \$200 cl, 0-8240-8547-7. Garland Publishing, 136 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016.

Want to learn more about Artemis or Hell Cat Maggie or perhaps Red Sonja? Then flip through the pages of Jessica Amanda Salmonson's **The Encyclopedia of Amazons: Women Warriors from Antiquity to the Modern Era**. Salmonson, author of *Thousand Shrine Warrior* and *The Swordswoman*, spent 15 years compiling this annotated listing of more 1,000 women, arranged in alphabetical order and a bibliography. No Thelma and Louise entry, yet. \$21.95 cl, 1-55778-420-5. Paragon House, 90 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10011. BP.

A World of Options for the 90's: A Guide to International Educational Exchange, Community Service and Travel for Persons with Disabilities is an excellent 338-page guide, written and edited by Cindy Lewis and Susan Sygall, that's brimming over with detailed descriptions of programs that serve people of

different ages, interests and abilities. The sections on international educational exchange programs and voluntary workcamps and community service projects include descriptions of the programs and a section on the implications for a person with disabilities interested in these programs. Other chapters focus on financial aid options, resource materials and organizations concerned with international perspectives on disabilities and with the education of students with disabilities. The chapter entitled "Travel" offers specific information for persons with disabilities on topics including airline travel, car rental, train and bus travel, cruises, accommodations, outdoor adventure groups and special travel agencies. The book ends with 17 personal stories by travelers with disabilities. Throughout the book, the editors encourage people with disabilities to take advantage of the opportunities that do exist, and to insist upon their right to reach out and experience the riches of international travel. They also hope that the book will encourage organizations to make their programs and services accessible to people of all disabilities. \$16 pb. No ISBN. Mobility International USA, PO Box 3551, Eugene, OR 97403. 20% for 2-9; 40% for 10+.



Dave Marsh, author of 13 books on rock and popular music and a leader in the fight against censorship and mandatory labeling of rock albums, has turned his hand to how-to books in **50 Ways to Fight Censorship, and Important Facts to Know About the Censors**. Marsh's suggestions range from the obvious — such as how to speak out, register to vote, and contact your local politicians — to interesting sections on investigating the status of pro-censorship lobbying groups (tip number 25) and suing them (tip number 47). Tip number 23 is "Support the American Booksellers Association Foundation for Free Expression." (A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the book go to the ABAFFE.) Marsh also includes a sensible list of the "Ten Commandments for the Fight Against Censorship" that urges readers to support independent sources of literature, music and film; examples of censorship and lists of banned books and records; and annotated lists of both pro- and anti-censorship forces and their ties to other organizations: for instance, con-



nections between the pro-censorship groups such as the Parents' Music Resource Center the the Focus on the Family organization. NOW makes the pro-censorship list for, among other things, their criticism of *American Psycho*. \$5.95 pb, 1-56025-011-9. Thunder's Mouth Press, 54 Greene St., Suite 4S, New York, NY 10013. BP, IN.



In God's Image: Christian Witness to the Need for Gay/Lesbian Equality in the Eyes of the Church details a straight priest's fight for lesbian and gay rights. Robert Warren Cromey, rector at Trinity Episcopal Church in San Francisco, takes on topics such as stereotypes, sex, the ordination of openly lesbian and gay clergy, same-sex unions and how to effect change in the church. Cromey avoids theological language and writes this call to action in an simple, anecdotal style. \$9.95 pb, 0-9624751-2-2. Alamo Square Press, PO Box 14543, San Francisco, CA 94114. BP, IN.

How Do I Look? Queer Film and Video collects six essays presented at a conference on gay and lesbian film and video theory held in October 1989. Following each essay is a discussion between the author, film- and video-makers, critics, historians and activists from across the United States, Canada, England and Australia. Contributors include Cindy Patton, Stuart Marshall, Judith Mayne, Richard Fung, Kobena Mercer and Teresa de Lauretis. The collection was edited by Bad Object-Choices, a reading group formed in 1987 to address questions of gay and lesbian theory. Members include Terri Cafaro, Jean Carlomusto, Douglas Crimp, Martha Gever, Tom Kalin and Jeff Nunokawa. \$16.95 pb, 0-941920-8. Bay Press, 115 West Denny Way, Seattle, WA 98119. InBook, IN, BP and other distributors.

In Women's Growth In Connection: Writings from the Stone Center, authors Judith V. Jordan, Alex-

andra G. Kaplan, Jean Baker Miller, Irene P. Stiver and Janet L. Surrey present ideas about examining and reshaping psychological theory and practice to more clearly reflect women's lives. The book, which consists mostly of Working Papers of the Stone Center for Developmental Services and Studies at Wellesley College, moves from theoretical statements about women's development in Part I, to applications of this perspective in Part II. \$18.95 pb, 0-89862-465-7; \$40 cl, -562-9. The Guilford Press, 72 Spring St., New York, NY 10012.

Kristine Falco's **Psychotherapy with Lesbian Clients: Theory Into Practice** is a sort of how-to book on working with lesbian clients. Falco, a lesbian who maintains a private psychotherapy practice in Portland, OR, divided the book into two sections: "The Context of Therapy" and "The Content of Therapy." Topics explored in part one include "Lesbians: Who Are They?," lesbian-affirmative psychotherapy and therapists and homophobia. Part two focuses on clinical issues, lesbian identity formation, lesbian relationships, and short sections on lesbian mothers, lesbians of color, alcohol and drug use, and lesbians and AIDS. The book also includes a series of self-assessment exercises, an annotated bibliography and a resource list. \$26.95 cl, 0-87630-622-9. Brunner/Mazel, 19 Union Square West, New York, NY 10003.



Add two more contributions to the growing number of books on spouses coming out. They are: **The Other Side of the Closet: The Coming-Out Crisis for Straight Spouses**, by Amity Pierce Buxton, and **When Husbands Come Out of the Closet** by Jean Schaar Gochros. **The Other Side** explores six major issues straight spouses face, including healing sexual damage, redefining the mixed-orientation relationship, balancing children's and parents' issues, overcoming identity crisis, rebuilding destroyed integrity and cre-

ating a new belief system; and illustrates these issues with the true stories of 30 straight wives *and* husbands. Also includes stories by a lesbian and a gay spouse and a resource list. Buxton, an active member of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, is the straight spouse of a gay man. \$14.95 pb, 1-877880-07-8. IBS Press, 744 Pier Ave., Santa Monica, CA 90405. BP, IN.

Slightly more clinical in tone, **When Husbands Come Out of the Closet** shares stories about how such events affect women and offers positive and practical suggestions for women and professionals dealing with this issue. \$19.95 pb, 0-918393-61-2. Harrington Park Press, an imprint of The Haworth Press, 10 Alice St., Binghamton, NY 13904. BP. The title was published simultaneously by The Haworth Press as a hardcover title.



In **Becoming Whole Again**, author Dr. Vera Gallagher offers encouragement, shared experiences and explanations to help women survivors of childhood sexual abuse. This simply written books is meant to be used by individual readers, small discussion groups and therapist-led groups. Chapters address issues including what is sexual abuse, dysfunctional families, boundaries, addictions, guilt, positive emotional growth, a higher power, survivors in group therapy. Chock full of affirmations and illustrations. \$10.95 pb, 0-8306-7657-0. Human Services Institute and Tab Books, Blue Ridge Summit, PA 17294. Distributed by McGraw-Hill.

Allen Creighton of Battered Women's Alternatives, Contra Costa, CA and Paul Kivel of the Oakland Men's Project have written a how-to book for educators and other adults who want to be allies for young people dealing with family violence, racism, dating abuse, rape and other forms of violence. At the heart of **Teens Need Teens** are suggested class and support group curricula on family and dating violence prevention that include exercises, roleplays and guided discussions. The workbook also includes introductory theory about young people and violence, and information about setting up and conducting support groups for teens. Primarily oriented toward addressing sexism, racism, anti-Semitism and adultism, but encourages educators to extend the exercises to

heterosexism and other power imbalances. Also includes information on using a one-hour BWA video *My Girl* that a multiracial group of teens at BWA put together to address the issue of teen dating violence. The video and teacher's guide are available for \$95. The handbook is \$19.95 pb. No ISBN. Order from the Oakland Men's Project, 440 Grand Ave., Suite 320, Oakland, CA 94610. 2-5 copies \$18.95 each, 6-10 \$17.95 each, and 11+ \$16.95 each.

Taking Care of Caregivers: For Families and Others Who Care for People with Alzheimer's Disease and Other Forms of Dementia uses text and exercises to help caregivers get in touch with their needs and feelings, cope with grief, communicate with the patient and manage stress. The workbook was written by Jeanne Roberts, a social worker who cared for her mother for 15 years while she had dementia. Publishers say the guide has also been used by AIDS caregivers. \$14.95 pb, 0-923521-09-7. Bull Publishing Company, 148 E. Third Ave. #200, San Mateo, CA 94401. Distributed by Publishers Group West.

In her mainstream-oriented guide to mothering, **The Mother's Survival Guide**, Shirley L. Radl tries to help mothers avoid situational abuse by giving them suggestions for reducing the stress that results from caring for children on a day-to-day basis. Chapters include recognizing and expressing anger, guilt and working mothers, "The Joy of Housewifery" and "How to Turn Your Husband Into Your Own Best Friend." First printed in 1979. \$8.95 pb, 0-911061-19-3. Steve Davis Publishing, PO Box 190831, Dallas, TX 75219. BP, IN.



Magazines

Jennifer Moyer and Britt Bell of Moyer Bell Limited bought *Small Press: The Magazine of Independent Publishers* this spring, turned it into a quarterly and expanded it by about thirty percent. The Spring 1991 issue includes features on both Seal Press and The Feminist Press. Subscriptions are \$29/year. Small Press, Colonial Hill, RFD 1, Mt. Kisco, NY 1054; phone 914-666-0069. ○

FROM THE UNIVERSITY PRESSES

By Kris Hoover

This is my last regular university press column. Thanks to all those readers, whom I assume are out there somewhere. Also, this column would not be possible without the generous and ongoing support of the university presses who supply catalogs and review copies. Special thanks to Carol Seajay, who invited me to take on this column several years ago, and who has always been an encouraging and supportive editor.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA PRESS

Janet Wolff's *Feminine Sentences* is postmodernism for the practical. Though fluent in the arcane languages of postmodern film and literary criticism, Wolff is equally grounded in the real world of women's experience. Readers who liked French feminist criticism as it was may resist her call for feminist criticism that is more socially aware and self-consciously political. Anyone who found the postmodernists too abstract or disengaged to bother with, though, can use this book to find out what they were trying to do and what uses we might yet make of it. *Feminine Sentences* joins Toril Moi's *Sexual/Textual Politics* as a basic book on feminism and postmodernism and is much easier to read. \$12.95 pb, 0-520-07432-7; \$35 cl, -07074-7, 146pp.

Also new in both cloth and paper is a wonderful new survey of feminist anthropology: *Gender at the Crossroads*, edited by Micaela di Leonardo. Some of the most interesting feminist anthropologists, including Rayna Rapp, Kay Warren and Patricia Zavella, describe the central ideas of their work in areas as diverse as primate evolution, language, and global economics. \$14.95 pb, -, \$45 cl, -07092-5, 423pp.

Three volumes of papers, each edited by leading feminist scholars, will broaden offerings on women around the world. If Gail Bernstein is true to form, her collection, *Recreating Japanese Women, 1600-1945*, will be brilliant, insightful, clearly written and even witty. Women over the 350 years, as grandmothers, literary radicals, farmers, artists, factory workers and sake brewers, are profiled and compared to shifting ideals of femininity. \$14.95 pb, -07017-8, 352pp, 32 illus. *Russia's Women*, Barbara Evans Clements, Barbara Engel and Christine Worobec, eds., looks at how women's resistance to the male politics of church and state has influenced Russian history since the Middle Ages. \$14.95 pb, -07024-0, 352pp, 23 illus. On 1500 years of gender relations in China, there's *Marriage and Inequality in Chinese Society*, Rubie Watson and Patricia Embry eds., \$14.95 pb, -07124-7, 400pp.

New paperbacks you probably also carried in cloth are Jane Flax's *Thinking Fragments: Psychoanalysis and Postmodernism in the Contemporary West*, \$13.95 pb, -07305-3, 287pp, and Nel Noddings' concrete discussion of feminist ethics and theology, *Caring*, \$12.95 pb, -07413-0, 284pp.



Between Feminism and Labor: The Significance of the Comparable Worth Movement, by Linda Blum, contrasts affirmative action and comparable worth as two strategies to raise women's incomes. She concludes that by raising the status of "women's jobs," comparable worth benefits more women and has more radical potential than do policies that slot a few women into traditionally male occupations. \$11.95 pb, -07259-6, 215pp. Also note *Sex Differences at Work: Women and Men in Nontraditional Occu-*

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pations, by Christine Williams, \$11.95 pb, -07425-4, 206pp.

Political Protest and Cultural Revolution is Barbara Epstein’s sympathetic, clear and detailed study of recent lesbian-feminist, Quaker and other direct-action political groups. Lots of familiar names and issues here. \$24.95 cl, -07010-0, 327pp, 20 illus. You might also try Karen Brown’s fluidly-written study of Haitian women’s spiritual traditions, **Mama Lola: A Vodou Priestess in Brooklyn**, \$24.95, -07073-9, 403pp, 19 illus.



RUTGERS UNIVERSITY PRESS

Rachel’s Daughters: Newly Orthodox Jewish Women, by Debra Kaufman, is based on interviews with 150 women who have recently chosen to join one of Judaism’s most conservative and male-dominated sects. In a pleasant, journalistic style, Kaufman portrays these women’s search for community and spiritual meaning and the deep paradoxes of their choice. She also explains trends in contemporary Jewish thought and practice, and presents a stimulating critique of liberal feminism from a more radical Jewish-feminist perspective. \$11.95 pb, 0-81135-1638-2, 243pp.

Carol Warren’s **Madwives: Schizophrenic Women in the 1950s** uses two decades of interviews with women who spent some time in a California state mental hospital in the 50s. She traces commonalities among the diverse families represented and links “madness” to the suffocating housewife stereotype of the time. More academic in tone than *Rachel’s Daughters*, **Madwives** will appeal mainly to therapists, teachers and students. \$14.95 pb, -1648-7, 283pp.

Also in paper from Rutgers are: Louisa May Alcott’s first novel, **Moods**, an interesting meditation on independent women’s limited options in the mid-1800s. \$13 pb, -1670-6, 284pp, and **Victorian Sages and Cultural Discourse**, Thais Morgan, ed., a collection of essays on gender and 19th-century art, literature and culture. The Brontes, Harriet Martineau, Christina Rossetti’s eerie *Goblin Market* and the roots of socialist-feminism are among the topics. \$15 pb, -1601-3, 330pp, 19 illus.



The Habit of Surviving: Black Women's Strategies for Life blends author Kesho Scott's (co-author *Tight Spaces*, Spinsters/Aunt Lute) own story with four oral histories of African-American women born in the 1940s. Scott alternates between story-telling and sociological and political commentary, employing an impassioned style and a taut balance of determination and despair.

A Life of Her Own: A Countrywoman in 20th Century France is the regrettably commonplace title of a marvelous European bestseller, an autobiography that reads like a novel. Rural French schoolteacher, pacifist, feminist and political activist Emilie Carles' memoir of the century as seen from an Alpine village is brilliantly translated by Avriel Goldberger. From the attitudes of the neighbors to the dynamics of world wars, Carles' insights sparkle, and her ability to see the comedy of everyday life is unailing. A great gift for anyone interested in France, European history or personal narratives. \$19.95 cl, -1641-2, 271pp.

Also note: **Jessie Bernard: The Making of a Feminist**, by Robert Bannister. The author, a sympathetic male historian, sets this maverick sociologist's story in the contexts of the evolution of feminism, 20th-century intellectual trends in general, and Jewish women's history. \$27.50 cl, -1614-5, 276pp, 8 illus.



UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS PRESS

Feminist Ethics, edited by Claudia Card, is a reasonable introduction to the subject, including such authors as Marilyn Frye, Alison Jaggar, Joyce Trebilcock and Sarah Lucia Hoagland. None of the writers assumes an audience of philosophy students, but readers will have to contend with some references to Kant and the other old boys while reading about the ethics of women's relationships, terrorism, lesbian ethics and other timely topics. \$14.95 pb, 0-7006-0483-9, \$29.95 cl, -0482-0, 300pp.

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS

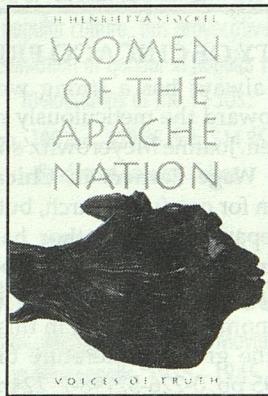
Chicago always has a strong women's studies list, leaning toward the meticulously researched and densely written. Joanne Meyerowitz's **Women Adrift: Independent Wage Earners in Chicago, 1880-1930** fits the pattern for careful research, but its lively style is a small departure. The author has unearthed a remarkable amount of detail about both white and African-American women workers and their first tastes of autonomy and city life in this excellent contribution to the growing literature on independent women. \$12.95 pb, 0-226-52198-2, 224pp.



Other new paperbacks are: **Wage Justice**, by Sara Evans and Barbara Nelson, a firsthand account of the successes and limitations of comparable-worth legislation in Minnesota, \$12.95 pb, -22260-8, 224pp. **Family Fortunes: Men and Women of the English Middle Class, 1780-1850**, by Lenore Davidoff and Catherine Hall, is good reading for feminist Anglophiles and a solid history of the roots of current white middle-class family patterns. \$17.95 pb, -13733-3, 576pp, 32 illus. Ida B. Wells' (1862-1931) autobiography, **Crusade for Justice**, has been reissued following a PBS series on this passionate civil rights activist, teacher and journalist. This edition is edited by her daughter, Alfreda Duster. \$16.95 pb, -89344-8, 434pp. **Meatless Days** is Sara Suleri's graceful memoir of growing up with a Welsh mother and a Pakistani journalist father in politically volatile Pakistan. \$9.95 pb, -77981-5, 186pp. **"The Last Work:" Women, Death and Divination**, by C. Nadia Seremetakis, looks at women's lives and beliefs in rural Greece. \$15.95 pb, -74876-6, 280 pp, 16 illus. Lastly, Unni Wikan's **Behind the Veil in Arabia: Women in Oman** somehow missed out on over a decade of feminist anthropology and writing about Arab women. This makes the interpretations seem dated, though the interviews with Omani women are good data. The

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most interesting chapter is actually on gay men in Oman, where it is possible to read around the author's homophobic discomfort to learn about the institution of openly gay relationships in this conservative Islamic nation. \$14.95, -89683-8, 313pp, 25 illus.

Houston Baker, Jr.'s *Workings of the Spirit: The Poetics of Afro-American Women's Writing* is a learned and very theory-oriented African-American male scholar's proposal for the adoption of ideas from French deconstructionism into African-American literary criticism. \$24.95 cl, -03522-0, 239pp, 39 beautiful photos from an exhibit of portraits of African-American women in the 30s and 40s. Also new in cloth only is *The Illusion of Equality: The Rhetoric and Reality of Divorce Reform*, by Martha Fineman. The author's argument for laws that will create an equality of outcomes instead of a process that treats men and women the same should stir interest among feminist lawyers and other public policy-oriented women. \$27.50 cl, -24956-5, 252pp.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA PRESS

The Integral Feminist: Madeleine Pelletier, 1874-1939, by Felicia Gordon, recounts the dramatic

life of a working-class French woman who became one of the first women psychiatrists in her country, a leading radical socialist-feminist, and the leader of the nation's reproductive freedom movement. The background to her story, pre-WWII radical feminism in France, is also informative and vividly presented. \$15.95 pb, 0-8166-1903-4, 295pp, 12 illus.

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS

U.S. feminist readers rarely hear about cultural ferment in West Germany and the recent outpouring of novels and films influenced by feminist thought there. Richard McCormick's *Politics of the Self: Feminism and the Postmodern in West German Literature and Film* looks at this work of the 70s and 80s, though it does assume some familiarity with the authors and filmmakers. \$14.95 pb, 0-691-01483-3, 262pp.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

Except for the new paperbacks in the Schomburg Library of 19th Century Black Women Writers series, Oxford's spring list is on the sleepy side. The Schomburgs are: *Spiritual Narratives*, by Maria Stewart and three others, on Christianity and Black women's liberation, \$10.95, 019-506786-x, 494pp; *The House of Bondage, or Charlotte Brooks and Other Slaves*, slave narratives collected at the turn of the century by Octavia Albert, whose mission was to persuade every Christian of their duty to do something about the aftermath of slavery, \$8.95 pp, -506784-3, 192pp; *Four Girls at Cottage City*, by Emma Kelley-Hawkins, written in 1898, a woman-centered, spiritual, sentimental novel, \$9.95 pb, -506787-8, 432pp; and *Contending Forces*, by Pauline Hopkins, called one of the most engrossing and important African-American novels before the Harlem Renaissance, \$10.95 pb, -506785-1, 464pp.



Scholarly paperbacks include *Pornography and Representation in Greece and Rome*, Amy Richlin, \$14.95 pb, -506723-6, 384pp; *Rebel Daughters: Women and the French Revolution*, Sara Melzer, ed., \$14.95 pb, -507016-x, 288pp; and *Miss Miles*, a feminist novel of women's friendship and endurance, by



the more adventurous, world-travelling childhood friend of Charlotte Bronte, Mary Taylor. \$9.95 pb, -506492-5, 466pp. You may also want to carry the new edition of Rachel Carson's classic of nature writing, *The Sea Around Us*, \$8.95 pb, -506997-8, 278pp, 5 illus.

Home and Work: Housework, Wages and the Ideology of Labor in the Early Republic, a fresh contribution to U.S. women's economic history that relates, among other interesting things, how women's housework got not to be considered work. \$29.95 cl, -506009-1, 222 pp. History readers, and therapists as well, may also be interested in Janet Oppenheim's study of doctors, patients and depression in the highly-gendered world of Victorian England, *Shattered Nerves*, \$27.95 cl, -505781-3, 388pp. In a similar popular-history vein is *Divorce: An American Tradition*, in which Glenda Riley demystifies the long history of this institution in the U.S. Riley seems to have written a liberal book for a conservative audience, so her careful tone may seem strange to feminists, but her research is informative and her examples are often entertaining. \$24.95 cl, -506123-3, 262pp. William Chafe, long one of the few male scholars of U.S. feminism, has a new edition of his compact history of the movement, *The Paradox of Change*, \$22.95 cl, -504418-5, 256pp. Lastly, somewhat more optimistic than Chafe's book and certainly more massive is the thoroughly revised third edition of *Women's America*. This edition of the enduring women's history text is edited by Linda Kerber and Jane DeHart. \$18.95 pb, -506262-0, 588pp, illus.

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY PRESS

The Neurotic Woman, by Agnes Mills, concludes that neurosis is indeed a "women's problem," but not for reasons sexism will approve of. Citing the intersection of personal problems, limited coping skills, limited social roles and choices, and sexism in psychiatry, Mills takes a strongly social-psychological stance. \$15 pb, 0-8147-5463-5, 175pp.

Women, Love, and Power, by Elaine Baruch, uses psychoanalytic and feminist approaches to literature to look at romantic love from Renaissance troubadours to the impact of AIDS on the gay male relationships. The author does not assume her readers have either English degrees or deep familiarity with Freud. She's direct, often first-person, and frequently funny besides. \$35 cl, 0-1155-3, 280pp.

Also note: **Jean Rhys: The West Indian Novels**, a study of family and Caribbean influences on the Dominican-born novelist, by Teresa O'Connor. \$15 pb, -6174-7, 260pp; and **Surviving Divorce**, by Mavis MacLean, an interesting comparison of women's economic survival in the U.S., Britain and France, three countries with very different social welfare systems, \$29.50 cl, -5462-7, 166pp.



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY PRESS

Columbia's "Between Women—Between Men: Lesbian and Gay Studies" list debuts with three important, but not cheap, cloth titles.

Lesbian anthropologist Kath Weston's **Families We Choose: Lesbians, Gays, Kinship** is modestly presented as a study of coming out and "chosen families" in the Bay Area. Weston's sensitivity and cultural awareness, however, make her study a more general portrait of gay and lesbian domestic and emotional life and political as well as personal aspirations. A highly readable book about our communities in the 90s, and particularly interesting for its consideration of lesbian and gay families with children. \$35 cl, 0-231-07288-0, 261pp.

Violence Against Lesbians and Gay Men, by Gary Comstock, is a welcome if distressing study of the types and extent of violence we face, the perpetrators and the responses of courts, police and the media. His study is historical as well as sociological, tracing anti-gay and anti-lesbian violence from the

1940s on, and proposing a social explanation for why male teenagers are the most common bashers. \$35 cl, -07330-5, 336pp.

The Spring university press book we've probably all run out of at least once already is Lillian Faderman's long-awaited **Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers: A History of Lesbian Life in 20th Century America**. Personally, I wanted more than the 33 wonderful pictures, and I thought the chapter on the "sex wars" was about as politically wishy-washy as the "sex radicals" themselves. No doubt every other lesbian reader will want this to be her book, too, and writing about remembered times always sparks controversy. I'm convinced, though, that readers will love the whole of this landmark in lesbian herstory even more than they take issue with its details. \$29.95 cl, -07488-3, 373pp.



Male author Allan Gutman's survey, **Women's Sports: A History** is actually pretty much confined to Europe and the U.S., but fans will love reading about medieval English peasant women playing the ancestor of soccer as well as more recent achievements in women's sports. \$29.95 cl, -06956-1, 352pp, 38 illus. **Rape and Representation**, on a far heavier subject, examines how classic works of literature make violence against women seem ordinary and acceptable. Even at \$37.50 cl, this collection edited by Lynette Higgins and Brenda Silver will attract some literary criticism readers. -07266-x, 326pp. Also for the lit crit audience are two new titles about France: **Shifting Scenes: Interviews on Women, Writing and Politics in Post-68 France**, edited by Alice Jardine and Anne Menke, and including Monique Wittig, Catherine Clement and other luminaries. \$35 cl, -06772-0, 222pp. and **Tender Geographies: Women and the Origins of the Novel in France**, by Joan DeJean, \$37.50 cl, -06230-3, 352pp. One last expensive but important title is **Gender in Crisis: Women and the Palestinian Resistance Movement**, Julie Peteet, \$35 cl, -07446-8, 224pp.

New Columbia paperbacks are **Tradition, Revision and Afro-American Women's Novels**, by male scholar Michael Awkward, which makes extensive use of feminist criticism, \$12.50 pb, -06807-7, 208pp.;

and **In Vitro Fertilization**, a liberal law and policy-oriented approach by Andrea Bonnicksen, \$12.95 pb, -06905-7, 194pp.

NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY PRESS

Dorothy Smith is a down-to-earth feminist sociologist who shows that it isn't yet time to toss Marx out altogether. Her latest book, **Conceptual Practices of Power: A Feminist Sociology of Knowledge**, sounds obscure, but what Smith is after is how mental health, hospital and police records, government statistics and other "official" sources of information distort public understanding of women's lives. Smith is influential in Canada, but I have the impression that she's less well known in the U.S. \$12.95 pb, 1-55553-104-0, 284pp. Also note Gayl Jones' stark and finely-honed short stories, **White Rat**, \$10.95 pb, -100-8, 200pp.

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE PRESS

Tish Sommers, Activist, and the Founding of the Older Women's League, by Patricia Huckle, profiles this fascinating lifelong activist, from her youth in Nazi Germany to her feminist years, in which she coined the term "displaced homemaker," founded OWL and added women's struggles to her already lengthy list of social and economic justice causes. \$28.95 cl, 0-87049-691-3, 280pp, 34 illus.

Haunting the House of Fiction: Feminist Perspectives on Ghost Stories by American Women, edited by Lynette Carpenter and Wendy Kolmar, is notable not only by the quality of the essays on Edith Wharton to Native American women's writing, but also for its thoroughly multi-cultural approach to the subject. \$26.50 cl, -688-3, 280pp.



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS PRESS

The Female Fear: The Social Cost of Rape, by Margaret Gordon and Stephanie Riger, is based on massive 100-question in-person surveys done in Philadelphia, Chicago and San Francisco. It isn't clear where, or if, lesbians are in this supposedly unbiased sample of females, but otherwise the results are broadly descriptive of women's experience. The data should clearly demonstrate how circumscribed women's lives are by the ever-present threat of rape.

This is a moderate, policy-oriented book, best for backing up arguments and as a gift for your favorite elected official. \$11.95 pb, 0-252-06169-1, 230pp.

Virginia Woolf and Postmodernism, by Pamela Caughie, is sharply critical of almost all feminist writing on Woolf as romanticizing, rigid and incapable of uncovering Woolf's truly innovative writing techniques. It's odd to read Woolf criticism that bristles with the names of male literary theorists, but Caughie's point is to show what postmodern criticism can add to the understanding of Woolf's writing. What the book jacket calls a pragmatic approach can also be seen as simple libertarianism, but Caughie's bracing critique should still catch the attention of the legion of feminist Woolf criticism readers. \$15.95 pb, -06158-6, 222pp. Also in the cultural criticism realm are: **Playing With Gender: A Renaissance Pursuit**, Jean Brink et al., eds., which looks at historical images of witches, amazons and hermaphrodites/bisexuals, \$24.95 cl, -01764-1, 142pp, 12 illus.; and **Points of Resistance: Women, Power and Politics in the New York Avant-garde Cinema, 1943-71**, by Lauren Rabinowitz, \$14.95 pb, -06139-x, 350pp, 39 illus.

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Black Women Writing Autobiography, by Joanne Braxton, extends recent feminist writing about personal narratives by tracing an African-American women's tradition. She begins with women's slave narratives and concludes with Maya Angelou's *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, which she sees as the first book in the flowering of African-American women's literature. Readers interested in themes of mothers and daughters will also find stimulating ideas in this readable new paperback. \$16.95, 0-87722-803-5, 242pp.

Understanding Breast Cancer Risk, by Patricia Kelly, reviews both social and medical aspects of this common disease, with the goal of helping health care workers to better understand their patients. Kelly's attention to women's anxiety about being "at risk" for breast cancer is particularly good. \$17.95 pb, -813-2, 195pp.

Also note: **Race, Gender and Desire: Narrative Strategies in the Fiction of Toni Cade Bambara, Toni Morrison and Alice Walker**, by male critic Elliott Butler-Evans, \$16.95 pb, -831-0, 232pp.; **Doing Comparable Worth**, on activism in Oregon, by Joan Acker,

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\$16.95 pb, -834-5 520pp.; **Women, Islam and the State**, Deniz Kandiyoti, ed., \$18.95 pb, -786-1, 256pp.; **Muchachas No More: Household Workers in Latin America and the Caribbean**, Elsa Chaney and Maria Garcia Castro, eds., \$18.95 pb, -835-3, 520 pp.; and **Women in the Sanctuary Movement**, Robin Lorentzen, \$34.95 cl, -768-3, 240pp.



CORNELL UNIVERSITY PRESS

In Whose Science? Whose Knowledge?, Sandra Harding's premise is that as long as science describes the world from the perspectives of dominant groups, women and men cannot "explain the world we live in or the real choices we have." Long a radical feminist critic of science, Harding summarizes her past positions for a general audience. She then advocates new centrality for the insights of people of color, lesbians and other excluded groups in feminist science criticism. \$12.95 pb, 0-8014-9746-9, \$34.50 cl, -2513-1, 366pp.

Other new Cornell titles in feminist theory are: **What Can She Know? Feminist Theory and the Construction of Knowledge**, by philosopher Lorraine Code, \$14.95 pb, -9720-5, 384pp., and political scientist Christine Di Stefano's **Configurations of Masculinity: A Feminist Perspective on Modern Political Theory**, \$10.95 pb., -9765-5, 256pp. In herstory, there are: Biddy Martin's biography of the turn-of-the-century European intellectual, **Lou Andres-Salome: Woman and Modernity**, \$10.95 pb, -9907-0, 264pp, and **Refiguring Women: Perspectives on Gender and the Italian Renaissance**, Martha Migiel and Juliana Schiesari, eds., \$12.95 pb, -9771-x, 304pp, 35 illus. And lastly, in literature, Corness paperbacks are: **Autobiographical Voices: Race, Gender, Self-portraiture**, Françoise Lionnet, \$9.95 pb, -9927-5, 280pp., and **Women and Modern Drama: Freud, Feminism and European Theater at the Turn of the Century**, Gail Finney, \$8.95 pb, -9925-9, 248pp.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY PRESS

Both Right and Left Handed: Arab Women Talk About Their Lives, by Syrian feminist Bouthaina Shaaban, is a fabulous collection of Arab women's voices and viewpoints. Shaaban traveled in Algeria, Lebanon and Syria and also visited Palestinian refu-

gee camps to gather "the truth about Arab women" as students, mothers, workers, activists, farmers, and wives. She deftly weaves background and explanation with the dozens of candid discussions, which range in topic from family honor to having one's children killed in war to lesbian relationships. Vivid, easy to read, and thoroughly feminist (Women's Press, U.K. was the original publisher) this is the best single book on Arab women to suggest to general readers. \$12.95 pb, 0-253-20688-x, \$35 cl, -35189-8, 242pp.

In Stitches: A Patchwork of Feminist Humor and Satire, Gloria Kaufman, ed., is an oversized paperback full of cartoons by Nicole Hollander and Alison Bechdel, vignettes by Kate Clinton, dozens of pithy quotes and some longer pieces by Alice Kahn, Toni Cade Bambara, Barbara Ehrenreich, Dave Barry and other well-known writers. Very lesbian-positive, but more material from women of color would have been good. Makes great coffee table and bathroom reading, and an excellent gift. \$15.95 pb, -20641-3, \$29.95 cl, -33141-2, 180pp, nearly 100 illus.

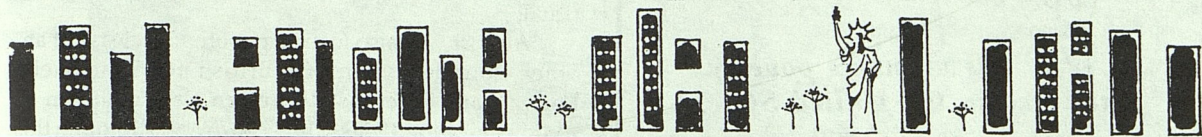
H. Patricia Hynes combines her own radical feminist environmentalist perspective with work on reproductive technology by Janice Raymond, Gena Corea and Nellie Kanno in **Reconstructing Babylon: Essays on Women and Technology**. Inspired by a painting of Queen Semaramis directing the construction of the ancient city of Babylon, Hynes imagines how women can begin to reshape the technology of our day. All the essays are packed with recommendations for what women can do now about the direction of technology. \$12.50 pb, -20622-7, \$35 cl, -32881-0, 206pp.

A less obvious pick for feminist stores is the scrapbook-history, **100 Years at Hull House**, edited by Mary Lynn Bryan and Allen Davis. Newspaper accounts, memoirs, clippings from Hull House publications and 77 illustrations tell the story of this venerable social reform institution from its founding by Jane Addams and other middle-class feminist radicals. Some may remember Davis for his strained insistence that Addams wasn't a lesbian, but she and her colleagues speak for themselves here. A great gift for anyone interested in feminist, radical or immigration history. \$24.95 pb, -20579-4, 335pp.

Stores with gay men's titles will want **Gay Voices From East Germany**, in which Jurgen Lemke has collected 13 oral histories from men born between

See University Presses, page 91

AND ON PUBLISHER'S ROW



Compiled by Sandi Torkildson and Shane Snowden

I'm just back from the ABA and am still excited by some of the new books due out this fall. There is a new collection of short stories by Margaret Atwood called **Wilderness Tips** coming from Doubleday (\$20 cl, 0385421060, December). Leslie Silko has an epic novel about American Indians living in the no-man's-land between two cultures. **Almanac of the Dead** (\$20 cl, 0671666088, November) is an ambitious work that spans centuries of Indian legend. **Wild Swans** by Jung Chang is the true story of women in 20th century China, grandmother, mother, and daughter. Due from S & S in September, **Wild Swans** (\$25 cl, 0671685465) is a story of survival through wars, invasions, revolution and continuing upheaval. Paule Marshall also has a novel due out from Atheneum. **Daughters** (\$21.95, 0689121393, October) is about two generations of a family with ties both to the Caribbean and to New York City.

The price of both fiction and non-fiction is up so I am buying in small quantities. I can't tell if the higher price will affect well-known authors but I am sure it will hurt sells of new and lesser known authors. I will cover some of the early new releases in this month's column but will cover more next time since the catalogues are just getting to me. — ST



BEACON PRESS (dist. by Farrar, Straus & Giroux)

As usual, Beacon has a wonderful assortment of new titles. First, September will bring another certain bestseller by Native American feminist Paula Gunn Allen, **Grandmothers of the Light: A Medicine**

Woman's Sourcebook (\$19.95 cl, 0-8070-8102-7). Offered as "a compelling introduction to the goddesses of Native America," this latest is a retelling of 21 stories of the female supernatural, most centuries-old, all from North America.



September will also bring a paperback version of another surefire bestseller, **America and I: Short Stories by American Jewish Women Writers** edited by Joyce Antler (\$12.95, -3607-2), a title that will be bought both as a gift and for lifelong personal perusal. Folks will be equally excited to learn of the August release in paper of another book raved about in these pages, **The Safe Sea of Women: Lesbian Fiction, 1969-1989** by Bonnie Zimmerman (\$14.95, -7913-8). Priced agonizingly high in cloth, this should now zip out the door despite its slightly academic style and stiff paperback price.

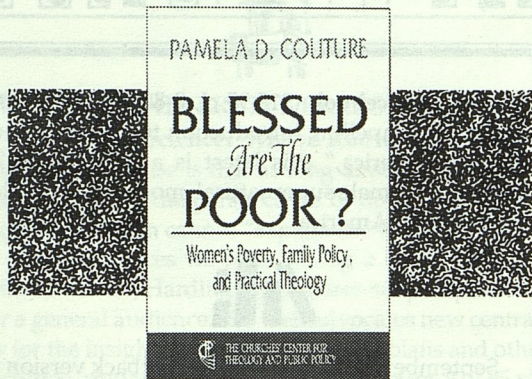
While these three titles are Beacon's most exciting upcoming, others deserve mention. A pricey hardcover that should nonetheless attract attention is the controversial **Vagabonding: Feminist Thinking Cut Loose** by Christina Thurmer-Rohr (\$22.95, -6756-3, August). A German who describes herself as a radical feminist/environmentalist, she is a cutting critic of women's spirituality and of what she calls women's collusion with patriarchy—positions that have brought her huge notoriety in both feminist and mainstream circles in Europe, and should have somewhat the same impact in the U.S.

Also renowned in Europe—more reverentially—is Heidi Gottner-Abendroth, whose best-known work, **The Dancing Goddess: Principles of a Matriarchal Aesthetic** (\$15.95 pb, -6753-9), will finally ap-

Abingdon Press



*Why has women's poverty
increased in the United States?*



**Blessed Are the Poor?
Women's Poverty, Family Policy,
and Practical Theology
by Pamela D. Couture**

The decade of the 1980s saw a growing rift between the rich and the poor in the U.S. Poverty increased among women with children—the so-called “female-headed family”—more rapidly than among any other population group.

This provocative work argues that the language of a long-standing American tradition—the tradition of self-sufficiency—has informed American family policy, and has in turn contributed directly to the growth of women's poverty. Couture offers a critical assessment of the logic of self-sufficiency from the point of view of contemporary practical theology.

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PAMELA D. COUTURE is Assistant Professor of Pastoral Care at Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta.

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91-A-151

pear in English in August. Examining the links between matriarchal art globally and contemporary women's spirituality, the book offers 24 gorgeous photo pages and a blend of theory, criticism, and ritual.

August will also feature paperback release of another volume by prolific British feminist Sheila Rowbotham, **The Past Is Before Us: Feminism in Action since the 1960s** (\$14.95, -6759-8). Although this overview deals only with feminism in the U.K., her fame and accessible style have given her a solid U.S. following.



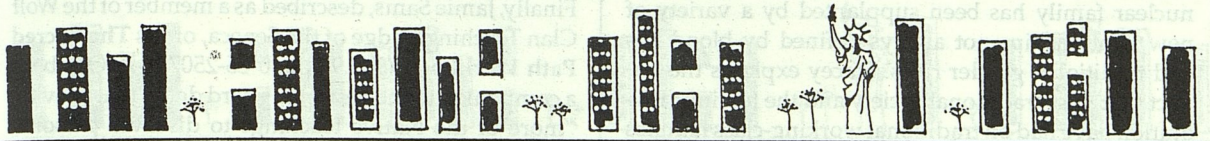
Although more will be said in future issues about these, I want to alert you to two great forthcoming Beacon releases. In November—mark your calendars—will arrive **Double Stitch: Black Women Write About Mothers and Daughters** (\$19.95 cl, -0910-5) edited by Patricia Bell-Scott “et al.” Featuring a foreword by Maya Angelou and stories, essays, and poems by Alice Walker, Audre Lorde, June Jordan, bell hooks, and Sonia Sanchez (among exciting others), this promises to be one of The Books of the Year, and comes in perfect time for giftgiving. You may also want to alert customers to the first anthology ever of the nonfiction of pioneering French lesbian feminist Monique Wittig, **The Straight Mind and Other Essays** (\$12.95 pb, -7917-0).

Finally, I can't resist nudging you about two recently published “must” titles, **Twice Blessed: On Being Lesbian or Gay and Jewish** edited by Christie Balka and Andy Rose (\$14.95 pb, -7909-X), and **Thousand Pieces of Gold** by Ruthanne Lum McCunn (\$9.95 pb, -8317-8), the deeply moving novel about a Chinese woman's experiences as an immigrant in California that just became a summer TV drama (!) on “American Playhouse.”

– SMS

ANCHOR (DOUBLEDAY)

Doubleday Anchor has relatively few Summer/Fall offerings, but among them is a must-order, **Banished Knowledge: Facing Childhood Injuries** by Alice Miller (\$10.00, 0-385-26762-2), which in October joins her other cherished “sophisticated self-help” books in paperback. Another must, just out, is the



paperback of **Soviet Women: Walking the Tightrope** by Francine du Plessix Gray (\$11.00, -41733-0, June), a mainstream hit that was a little too expensive in cloth but should prove popular in paper.

September will bring two titles by critic/essayist Susan Sontag, the '60s legend who is gaining a new '90s following thanks to her growing feminism and the republication of some of her best-known work. If you did well with last year's paperback combo of her classic cancer essay *Illness as Metaphor* published with her brilliant *AIDS as Metaphor* (also from Anchor), you may want to consider these Fall releases, both reprints. Her first novel, **The Benefactor** (\$11.00 pb, -26710-X), should attract the curious; difficult-but-worth-it, it features a mythic male protagonist. More broadly popular will be **Under the Sign of Saturn** (\$11.00 pb, -26712-6), criticism written between 1972 and 1980 that goes beyond its (primarily literary) subjects to comment on contemporary morality.

In truly exciting news that I can't resist mentioning prematurely, J. California Cooper's lovely out-of-print story collection **Pieces of Mine** (\$8.50, -42087-0) will be reprinted in January '92 in a beautiful edition carrying enthusiastic blurbs from Alice Walker and Ntozake Shange. It's expected to ride on the publicity coattails of the paperback version of her slave narrative-based poem **Family** (\$9.00, -41172-3), her "breakthrough" '91 release, which will appear at the same time—kudos to the Anchor PR Department!

—SMS



HARPERCOLLINS, Paperbacks

Barbara Kingsolver's new novel **Animal Dreams** (\$10.95 pb, 0060921145, August) has been a good seller in hardcover and the paperback will bring many new readers. This story about Codi Noline's return to her hometown of Grace, Arizona and her confrontation with her past and her ailing father is a moving and

suspenseful love story and an exploration of life's largest commitments. Harper is putting new covers on Kingsolver's first novel **The Bean Tree** and her collection of stories **Homeland** but the ISBNs will stay the same.



Laura Davis, co-author of *Courage to Heal*, has written a book for partners and spouses of survivors of child sexual abuse. **Allies in Healing** (\$12.95 pb, 0060968834, \$25 cl, 0060552999, September) addresses the needs of partners of survivors and speaks directly to their confusion, anger, and frustration. Davis offers practical advice and encouragement to all partners trying to support their loved ones on the path to recovery while tending to their own needs as well.

Carnal Acts by Nancy Mairs (\$9.95 pb, 006092117X, September) is a collection of essays by the author of *Plaintext*. Mairs talks about the challenges of living with a chronic debilitating disease, what it means to be a woman and a writer and the individual difficulties and triumphs of the human spirit.

Performance artist Laurie Anderson's recent tour of "Empty Places" is re-created in a new illustrated book. **Empty Places** (\$19.95 pb, 006096586X, September) includes the complete text of that performance, as well as all the songs of her album *Strange Angels*, comedic monologues and other previously unseen material.

My favorite cartoonist Roz Chast has a new collection due out in September. **Proof of Life on Earth** (\$8.95 pb, 0060968869) includes 120 cartoons from *The New Yorker* and *Mother Jones*, plus some never in print before. You will find such classics as "Children's Nightmares" — different foods touching on the same plate — and "The Tournament of Neuroses Parade."

Brave New Families by Judith Stacey (\$12.95 pb, 046500752X, September) looks at how the traditional

nuclear family has been supplanted by a variety of new relationships not always defined by blood ties and traditional gender roles. Stacey explores the impact that post-traditional society and the feminist revolution have had on traditional working-class families and the ramifications for everyone. — ST



HARPERSANFRANCISCO

In the adult self-help category, this September will bring a possible biggie, **Awakening Your Sexuality: A Recovery Guide for Women** (\$18.95 cl, 0-06-250190-9) by Stephanie Covington, a California psychologist. Though the extent to which it includes lesbian sexuality isn't clear, the book claims to be feminist and includes both "case studies" and exercises designed to "give women the tools to confront the guilt, shame or addiction that prevents real intimacy."

Harper S.F. continues its tradition of popular spirituality titles with September's **The Storyteller's Goddess** (\$10.95 pb, 0-06-250263-8) by Carolyn McVickar Edwards of the Women's Spirituality Forum. A collection of 30 "Goddess stories" from around the world, told in Edwards's words but accompanied by information about their traditional origins, the book is designed for "everyday, urban" women who "want to bring the Goddess into their lives, or who are looking for Goddess stories to read to their children."

This Fall will also feature three titles relating to Native spirituality about which you may be asked. **Being-in-Dreaming: An Initiation into the Sorcerer's World** (\$18.95 cl, 0-06-250233-6, September) is a "spiritual adventure story" by Florinda Donner, often described as a female Carlos Castaneda (of sorcerer Don Juan fame). In this "anthropology/travel" book, "Donner is a young college student at UCLA" who "meets a mysterious Mexican woman and travels with her into Mexico, where Donner finds herself drawn into a circle of sorcerers." October will feature a new product from controversial *Medicine Woman* author Lynn Andrews, **The Power Deck: The Cards of Wisdom** (\$19.95, 0-06-250078-3), 45 cards illustrated by Rob Scouten and accompanied by a book of affirmations and meditations designed to "tap the ancient wisdom of the planet" to build self-esteem.

Finally, Jamie Sams, described as a member of the Wolf Clan Teaching Lodge of the Seneca, offers **The Sacred Path Workbook** (\$14.95 pb, 0-06-250794-X, October), a companion to the bestselling card decks that provide "more of the Native teachings to discover personal truths and one's path." — SMS

HEALTH COMMUNICATIONS

First, the good news: Health Communications publishes self-help/recovery books that are literal life-savers (including Janet Woititz on adult children of alcoholics, John Bradshaw on healing the inner child, and Rokelle Lerner's daily affirmations) and that are supported by nationwide author appearances. The bad news? The books often assume heterosexuality, whiteness, and middle-classness, and many of their covers stick out like sore thumbs in the average women's store, with cornball italics and stiff pix of heavily made-up authors. As those writers would say, let your intuition be your guide: well-chosen Health releases (along with Hazeldens) are the backbone of any self-respecting recovery section.



Ruth Fishel, founder of Serenity, Inc., and author of the affirmations bestseller *Time for Joy*, will soon offer **5 Minutes for World Peace... Forever: A 90-Day Affirmation Plan** (\$4.95 pb, 1-55874-169-0, August). Gina Ogden's **Food for Body and Soul** (\$8.95 pb, -159-3, Fall), a cookbook featuring recipes "for health, comfort, love, and celebration" from well-known self-help/recovery authors. And, if you can face the cherubs on its cover, you may want to stock Tian Dayton's unique **Affirmations for Parents: How to Nurture Your Children** (\$6.95 pb, -151-8, Fall).

Health always offers new releases designed specifically for women, some informed by feminism, some not, almost all containing some wisdom and inspiration. September brings **Find Your Anger, Lose Your Depression: Strategies for Empowering Women** (\$8.95 pb, -161-5) by Lois Frankel, which "mainstreams" the longtime feminist point that women's depression masks anger—it should be a steady favorite. Joining it in the spotlight is **Late Bloomers: Women in Their Prime** (\$7.95 pb, -158-5, September) by Mitzi Chandler. I have a feeling this

dents are chimpanzees. This vivid portrait of a chimpanzee community completes the story Goodall began in *In the Shadow of Man*. — ST

MACMILLAN

In case you did not get a notice, Lexington books are now available from Macmillan. They are publishing a book for people who have been affected by the suicide of another. **Words I Never Thought To Speak** by Victoria Alexander (\$22.95 cl, 06692094X, September) covers her ten years of interviews with people who had endured a suicide and wanted to share their experiences. This book breaks the secrecy and silence of their loss.

Juggling by Faye Crosby (\$19.95 cl, 029067057, September) looks at the advantages of balancing a career and a family but also the critical difficulties women face. Crosby shows that these conflicts are not caused by two roles, but the unfairnesses women face in each of these roles.

New role models for women are looked at in **Women of Influence, Women of Vision** by Helen Astin and Carole Leland (\$25.95 cl, 1555423574, September) These vignettes of three generations of women leaders paint a rich history of the women's movement through stories of their own lives and demonstrate the influence women have had on the way we view our society.

Still Life by A. S. Byatt (\$8.95 pb, 0020178557, September) is the story of an extended English family that struggles with the choices they must make between domesticity and ambition, life and art. Toni Morrison wrote, "I am, as always, amazed and rewarded by (Byatt's) intelligence and sensitivity." Two sisters and their brother explore their responsibilities to others and the fulfillment of their own private dreams. — ST



WILLIAM MORROW

The big news from William Morrow is the October release in paper of Holly Near's fascinating autobiography **Fire in the Rain . . . Singer in the Storm** (\$10.00, 0-688-10964-0). I know you know, since it was probably your Fall '90 hardcover bestseller, but let this be a reminder to order up gazillions! (For anyone who

hasn't read it, yes, it *does* tell you everything you ever wanted to know . . .)

For those of you who are comfortable with hardcover fiction, take a look at **Copper Crown** (\$19.00 cl, -10688-9, September), a first novel by Lane von Herzen. It is getting a lot of PR support as "a novel of interracial friendship in defiance of time and place," and is a Literary Guild selection. Based partly on actual events and the oral histories of the (female) author's ancestors, it describes 25 years in the lives of a Black woman, a white woman, and a baby girl who flee a Texas town together in 1913 in the wake of lynchings. Interesting, no? — SMS



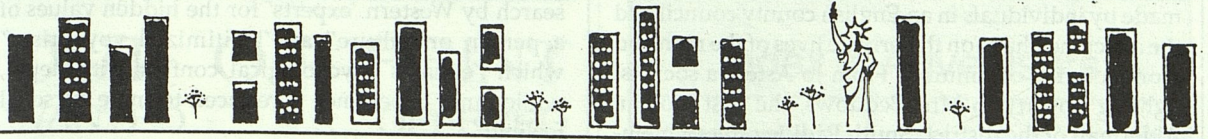
NORTON

The Star Cafe by Mary Caponegro (\$8.95 pb, 0393307913, August) is a collection of stories that challenges the way we think about language, about sexuality and even about thinking. Her stories have been called daring, explicit, avant-garde, lyrical, comic and erotic.

Barbara Katz Rothman's new book is a feminist analysis of both how childbirth is managed in America and why it is managed the way it is. **In Labor** (\$10.95 pb, 0393307980, August) is an exploration of how women came to lose control of pregnancy and childbirth to a male-dominated medical profession and the implications this has far beyond the delivery room.

Coming Into the End Zone by Doris Grumbach (\$19.95 cl, 0393030091, September) is the result of a journal she began to keep on her seventieth birthday. This book is a journey into the country of old age, painful losses, hard-won gains and firmly stated judgements and observations. Grumbach covers her move from urban Washington D. C., to coastal Maine and the inner contentment and reconciliation of her long life.

In **Mama Poc**, Anne LaBastille, the author of *Woodswoman*, relates her own attempts to halt the decline of a single species of bird found only in Guatemala. **Mama Poc** (\$10.95 pb, 0393308006, September) is a careful account of the death of the giant grebe, a flightless bird living on mile-deep Lake Atitlan whose population numbered only 82 in 1964. — ST



PENGUIN USA

All But the Waltz by Mary Clearman Blew (\$19.95 cl, 0670831085, September) is a collection of autobiographical essays that traces Blew's connection to Montana's natural and human landscape. We get to meet her grandmother, who spent three months alone in a remote one-room school house, separated by 300 miles from her husband and small children and her father who drove off one day in his pick-up and disappeared from her life forever. We get to know Blew herself, a writer whose observations on growing up, making do, leaving and enduring are utterly convincing.

Longing for Darkness by China Galland (\$10.95 pb, 0140121846, September) is a personal investigation into the meaning of darkness in the religious female images around the world. Galland traveled to a monastery in New Mexico through the Himalayas, Switzerland, France and Poland seeking the nature and history of the feminine face of God.

The Actor's Book of Monologues for Women collected by Stefan Rudnicki (\$8.95 pb, 0140157875, September) contains a wide range of dramatic monologues for women of varied ages, backgrounds and sensibilities. It draws from poetry, fiction, diaries and public records and includes selections from the works of such well-known writers as Margaret Atwood, Sappho, and Ursula Le Guin.



A chronicle in letters of the passionate love affair between Vita Sackville-West and Violet Trefusis comes to light in **Violet to Vita** (\$10.95 pb, 0140157964, September). Though Violet's husband destroyed Vita's letters, Violet's letters still remain. These letters are a moving testament to the intensity of Violet's love and the painful price she paid for it.

The Women of Deh Koh by Erika Friedl (\$9.95 pb, 0140149937, September) is a portrait of daily life in Iran. Friedl recounts the personal stories of women

in one of the strictest Muslim societies. She relates their hopes, dreams, fears and the strain of their daily lives.

Motherhood as Metamorphosis by Joyce Block (\$9.95 pb, 0452266750, September) looks at the changes, internal and external, that take place in the life of a new mother. Most people are stunned by the profound impact that motherhood has on their sense of self. Based on interviews with dozens of women this book blends the theoretical with case studies that reassure new mothers that they are not alone in their frustrations and ambivalence.



A new collection of short fiction by West Coast gay and lesbian writers, **Indivisible** edited by Terry Wolverton (\$10.95 pb, 0452266769, September), spans various ethnic backgrounds and literary genres. Gender, race, and sexuality come into focus in these stories of love, anger, relationships, and death.

The 35 essays in **Men Confront Pornography** edited by Michael Kimmel (\$10.95 pb, 0452010772, September) look at how pornography affects men's sexuality and politics as well as their relationships with women. Through their expressions of fascination, confusion, repulsion, guilt and concern, these essays speak to both the personal and the political on such topics as the relationship between pornography and violence against women, fantasy and male sexuality, the question of censorship and feminism and pornography.

— ST

PENGUIN USA, VIRAGO

At Mrs. Lippincote's by Elizabeth Taylor (\$9.95 pb, 0140162267, September) is the story of a woman's marriage to a military man and her struggle to be herself.

Winifred Holtby's novel about post-World War I England, **South Riding**, (\$10.95 pb, 0140162275, September) portrays the tangled motives and decisions

made by individuals in an English county council and the affect they have on the private lives of the men and women in the community. From Jo Astell, a socialist fighting poverty to Mrs. Beddows, the first woman Alderman of the district, **South Riding** offers a memorable evocation of people working together and against each other in an effort to revolutionize their own lives. —ST



ROUTLEDGE

Routledge publishes a large number of feminist titles annually, many of them groundbreaking works by non-U.S. authors—but it's crucial to note that, however accessible their titles, they're almost always very academic in style and outlook. If you're medium-size or larger, in a town with an institution of higher ed, it usually makes sense to order at least one of most Routledge feminist releases: academics often consider them vital reading, they're regularly featured in the *Women's Review of Books* and other journals with heavy academic readership, and they're nearly impossible to get from distributors. Buyers in other situations are urged to review the comprehensibility of the catalog blurbs—say, counting references to post-structuralism—before ordering.

With that caveat, let's proceed to the releases through October (by the way, although many will be simultaneously available in cloth and paper, I've listed only the latter). Notable among them is **Around 1981: Academic Feminist Literary Theory** (\$13.95, 0-415-90190-1, October) by the University of Wisconsin's Jane Gallop. A history of feminist literary criticism that focuses on 12 critical anthologies, it examines the dilemma of those "divided by allegiance to both feminism and literary studies," and asks the intriguing question, "Why do 1990s academic feminists accuse other academic feminists of being 'academic'?"

In the well-titled **When the Moon Waxes Red: Representation, Gender and Cultural Politics** (\$14.95 pb, -90431-5, August), filmmaker and Berkeley professor Trinh Minh-Ha "challenges Western regimes of knowledge" in provocative essays on "Third World art and culture." In a typical piece, based on Zora Neale Hurston's writing, she criticizes "the

search by Western 'experts' for the hidden values of a person or culture" as "legitimized voyeurism" which "equates psychological conflict with depth, while inner experience is reduced to mere personal feeling."

In **Femmes Fatales** (\$15.95 pb, -90320-2, August), Brown professor Mary Ann Doane examines the *femme fatale* in cinema from the standpoints of feminism, post-structuralism, and psychoanalytic theory. Dutch professor Rosi Braidotti, meanwhile, discusses feminist thinkers' critiques of such modern French male philosophers as Derrida and Foucault in **Patterns of Dissonance: A Study of Women in Contemporary Philosophy** (\$16.95 pb, -90491-9, September).

Beyond Accommodation: Ethical Feminism, Deconstruction, and the Law (\$14.95 pb, -90106-5, August) by U.S. law professor Drucilla Cornell asserts that "a way to ethical feminism can be found through an alliance with deconstructionism," challenging Catharine MacKinnon and Helene Cixous and praising Derrida and Toni Morrison (two writers seldom linked).

In **The Regime of the Brother: After the Patriarchy** (\$15.95 pb, -05435-4, August) literature professor Juliet Flower MacCannell argues that the Enlightenment failed to overturn patriarchy because its goal of "brotherhood" suppressed "woman, or the sister."



Finally, speaking of brothers, British sociologist Victor Seidler has two August releases of possible interest. One, with catchy cover art featuring a man and woman kissing through plastic helmets, is **Recreating Sexual Politics: Men, Feminism and Politics** (\$15.95 pb, -05854-6), which praises "the insights of feminism and ecology" and examines men's opposition to both; the cover may be the book's most original aspect, but "men's studies" works are in short supply. **The Achilles Heel Reader: Men, Sexual Politics and Socialism** (\$15.95 pb, -06351-5) is a collection, edited by Seidler, of pieces that appeared in the British men's mag *Achilles Heel*, which "explored positive conceptions of masculinity and the ways in which men can change." —SMS ○

OUT OF PRINT WANTED.....OFFERED

BOOKS WANTED

Rock Hudson Story Video, Jan. 8, 1990. Lesbian pulps from the fifties. Opening Books 403 Pratt Avenue N.E. Huntsville AL 35801, 205-536-5880.

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Awards, continued from page 20.

The **Gregory Kolovakos Award** for writing on AIDS, in the category of poetry went to Roy Gonzalves for **Perversion**, Renaissance Press, to Michael Lassell for **Decade Dance**, Alyson Publications, and to Kenny Fries for **The Healing Notebooks**, Open Books. The visual oriented works that received the **Gregory Kolovakos Award** were **Tongues of Flame** by David Wojnarowicz, University of Illinois, **The Indomitable Spirit** by Photographers & Friends United Against AIDS, and **Estatic Antibodies: Resisting the AIDS Mythology** ed. by Tessa Boffin and Sunil Gupta, Rivers Oram Press/London.

The **Ferro-Grumley Awards**, honoring the late authors and lovers Robert Ferro and Michael Grumley, went to Cherry Muhanji for **Her** and Allen Barnett for **The Body and Its Dangers**. ○

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University Presses, continued from page 82.

1900 and 1963, representing both city and small-town life. \$12.95 pb, -20630-8, \$35 cl, -33319-9, 197pp.

Other new paperbacks are: **Free Women of Spain: Anarchism and the Struggle for the Emancipation of Women**, which includes interviews with surviving anarchist-feminist veterans of the Spanish Civil War, by Martha Ackelsberg, \$14.95, -20634-0, 229pp, 12 illus.; **The New Soviet Man and Woman**, on the generally dismal state of sex role socialization and the impact of glasnost and perestroika, by Lynne Attwood, \$14.95, -20615-4, 263pp; **Beyond Methodology: Feminist Scholarship as Lived Research**, edited by Mary Margaret Fonow and Judith Cook, and including the insights of 27 social scientists, \$14.95 pb, -20629-4, 310pp; **Women and Gender in Southern Africa to 1945**, Cheryl Walker, ed., 0-86486-090-0, 390pp; and **Sentimental Modernism**, by Suzanne Clark, on continuities between early modernist writers to the work of Annie Dillard and Alice Walker, \$14.95 pb, -20640-5, 228pp. ○

CLASSIFIED ADS & LITERARY PERSONALS

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Co-Manager at Amazon Bookstore. Immediate, full-time position includes supervision of staff, budget management, and other duties of running a small business. Experience in the bookselling world and feminist businesses preferred. Women of color are strongly encouraged to apply. Please send resume to Barb Wieser, Amazon Bookstore, 1612 Harmon Place, Minneapolis MN 55403

Career Opportunity: Experienced Sales Reps wanted for line of feminist, spiritual jewelry, sculptures & pendulums. Must be familiar with metaphysical imagery. Sales kits and territory information available. Only serious inquiries, please. Send resume: Jane Iris Designs, Inc., PO Box 608, Dept. FBN 91, Graton CA 95444 or call 707-823-5687.

POSITIONS WANTED

Experienced editor offers editing, copy editing, proofreading and writing services. Reasonable rates. References available. Contact Ann at FBN, 415-626-1556.

FOR SALE

Dreams and Shadows: A Journal is a 224 page 8x11 book printed on quality vellum featuring 50 new drawings with ample space for journal keeping. Comes shrink wrapped with a bookmark. Retail \$17.95. Bookstores receive 40% discount and pay postage. Order 10 and get one free if ordered directly: Sudie Rakusin/Journal, Rt. 3 Box 648, Hillsborough NC 27278. Distributed by Inland and New Leaf. Also postcards — 12 images, \$.35 each, write for samples.

Lesbian Computer Game! Word game similar to "hangman" and "wheel of fortune" uses over 300 quotes by lesbians. Fun. Very easy to learn. Full color, with graphics. Suitable for all ages. For IBM XT, AT and compatibles. Retail price: \$14.95. Wholesale (3 or more) \$6.75 each with postage. Prepaid orders only. BeProud Products, PO Box 16130 Elway Station, St. Paul, MN 55116.

BOOKSTORE FOR SALE

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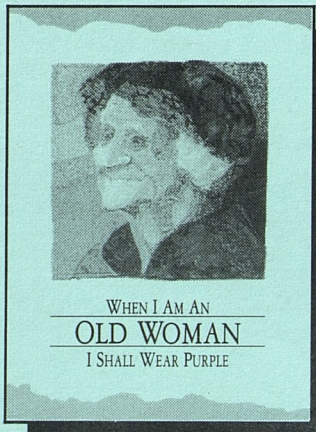
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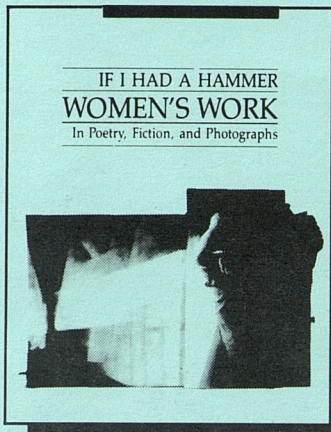
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